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THE  
POETS  
OF  
*GREAT BRITAIN,*

IN SIXTY-ONE DOUBLE-VOLUMES.

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VOL. L.

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*SAVAGE, VOL. I. II.*











THE  
**POETICAL WORKS**  
 OF  
**RICHARD SAVAGE.**

WITH  
*THE LIFE OF THE AUTHOR,*

BY SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL D.

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Of blooming genius, judgment, wit, possess'd,  
 By poets envied, and by peers address'd. CAM THORP

O'er ample Nature I extend my views,  
 Nature to rural scenes invites the Muse,  
 She flies all public care, all venal strife,  
 To try the still, compar'd with active life,  
 To prove by these the sons of men may owe  
 Their fruits of bliss to bursting clouds of woe,  
 That ev'n Calamity, by thought refin'd,  
 Inspires and adorns the thinking mind. WANDERER

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IN TWO VOLUMES

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**SAMUEL BAGSTER.**

1807.



THE LIFE  
OF  
RICHARD SAVAGE,

BY  
SAMUEL JOHNSON, L.L.D.

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IT has been observed in all ages, that the advantages of nature or of fortune, have contributed very little to the promotion of happiness ; and that those, whom the splendor of their rank, or the extent of their capacity, have placed upon the summit of human life, have not often given any just occasion to envy in those, who look up to them from a lower station ; whether it be, that apparent superiority incites great designs, and great designs are naturally liable to fatal miscarriages ; or, that the general lot of mankind is misery, and the misfortunes of those, whose eminence drew upon them an universal attention, have been more carefully recorded, because they were more generally observed.

SAVAGE. VOL. I.

served, and have in reality been only more conspicuous than those of others, not more frequent, or more severe.

That affluence and power,—advantages extrinsic and adventitious, and therefore easily separable from those by whom they are possessed,—should very often flatter the mind with expectations of felicity, which they cannot give, raises no astonishment; but it seems rational to hope, that intellectual greatness should produce better effects; that minds qualified for great attainments should first endeavor their own benefit; and that they, who are most able to teach others the way to happiness, should with most certainty follow it themselves.

But this expectation, however plausible, has been very frequently disappointed. The heroes of history, as well as civil history, have been, very often, no less remarkable for what they have suffered, than for what they have achieved; and volumes have been written, only to enumerate the miseries of the learned, and relate their unhappy lives, and unumely deaths.

To these mournful narratives, I am about to add the Life of Richard Steele, a man whose writings entitle him to an eminent rank in the classes of learning, and whose misfortunes claim a degree of compassion, not always due to the unhappy, as they were often the consequences of the crimes of others, rather than his own.

In the year 1697, Anne Countess of Maclesfield, having lived some time upon very uneasy terms with her husband, thought a public confession of adultery, the most obvious and expeditious method of obtaining her liberty; and therefore declared, that the child, with which she was then great, was begotten by the Earl Rivers. This, as may be imagined, made her husband no less desirous of a separation than herself, and he prosecuted his design in the most effectual manner; for he applied not to the ecclesiastical courts for a divorce, but to the parliament for an act, by which his marriage might be dissolved, the nuptial contract annulled, and the children of his wife illegitimated. This act, after the usual deliberation, he obtained, though without the approbation of some, who considered marriage as an affair, only cognizable by ecclesiastical judges\*; and on March 3d was separated from his wife, whose fortune, which was very great, was repaid her, and who having, as well as her husband, the liberty of mak-

\* This year was made remarkable by the dissolution of a marriage, solemnized in the face of the church.

SALMON'S REVIEW.

The following protest is entered in the books of the House of Lords.

Discontent;

Because, that we conceive, that this is the first bill of that nature that hath passed, where there was not a divorce first obtained in the Spiritual Court; which we took upon as an ill precedent, and may be of dangerous consequence to the future.

BALFAX.

## LIFE OF SAVAGE.

choice, was in a short time married to  
ett.

He the Earl of Macclesfield was prosecut-  
affair, his wife was, on the 10th of Janu-  
597-8, delivered of a son; and the Earl  
Rivers, by appearing to consider him as his own,  
left none any reason to doubt of the sincerity of  
her declaration; for he was his godfather, and  
gave him his own name, which was by his direc-  
tion inserted in the register of St. Andrew's pa-  
rish in Holborn; but unfortunately left him to  
the care of his mother, whom, as she was now set  
free from her husband, he probably imagined likely  
to treat with great tenderness the child, that had con-  
tributed to so pleasing an event. It is not indeed  
easy to discover, what motives could be found to  
over-balance that natural affection of a parent, or  
what interest could be promoted by neglect or cru-  
elty. The dread of shame or of poverty, by  
which some wretches have been incited to aban-  
don, or to murder their children, cannot be sup-  
posed to have affected a woman, who had pro-  
claimed her crimes and solicited reproach, and on  
whom the clemency of the legislature had unde-  
servedly bestowed a fortune, which would have  
been very little diminished by the expences which  
the care of her child could have brought upon  
her. It was therefore not likely that she would  
be wicked without temptation; that she would  
look upon her son, from his birth, with a kind of

## LIFE OF SAVAGE.

resentment and abhorrence ; and, instead of supporting, assisting, and defending him, see him struggling with misery ; or, would take every opportunity of his misfortunes, and obstructing his resources, with an implacable and restless cruelty, continue her persecution from the first hour of his life to the last.

But whatever were her motives, no sooner was her son born, than she discovered a resolution of disowning him ; and in a very short time removed him from her sight, by committing him to the care of a poor woman, whom she directed to educate him as her own, and enjoined, never to inform him of his true parents.

Such was the beginning of the life of Richard Savage. Born with a legal claim to honor and to affluence, he was in two months illegitimated by the parliament, and disowned by his mother ; doomed to poverty and obscurity, and launched upon the ocean of life, only, that he might be swallowed by its quicksands, or dashed upon its rocks.

His mother could not indeed infect others with the same cruelty.—As it was impossible to avoid the inquiries which the curiosity, or tenderness of her relations made after her child, she was obliged to give some account of the measures she had taken ; and her mother, the Lady Mason, whether in approbation of her design, or to prevent more criminal contrivances, engaged to transact with the

for her care, and to superintend the education of the child.

In this charitable office she was assisted by his mother, Mrs. Lloyd, who, while she lived, looked upon him with that tenderness, which the barbarity of his mother made peculiarly necessary; but her death, which happened in his tenth year, was another of the misfortunes of his childhood; for though she kindly endeavored to alleviate his loss by a legacy of three hundred pounds, yet, as he had none to prosecute his claim, to shelter him from oppression, or call in law to the assistance of justice, her will was eluded by the executors, and no part of the money was ever paid.

He was, however, not yet wholly abandoned. The Lady Mason still continued her care, and directed him to be placed at a small grammar-school near St. Alban's, where he was called by the name of his nurse, without the least intimation that he had a claim to any other.

Here he was initiated in literature, and passed through several of the classes, with what rapidity, or with what applause, cannot now be known. As he always spoke with respect of his master, it is probable that the mean rank, in which he then appeared, did not hinder his genius from being distinguished, or his industry from being rewarded; and if in so low a state he obtained distinction and rewards, it is not likely that they were gained but by genius and industry.



It is very reasonable to conjecture, that his application was equal to his abilities, because ~~his~~ improvement was more than proportioned to the opportunities which he enjoyed; nor ~~can~~ it be doubted, that if his earliest productions had been preserved, like those of happier students, we might in some have found vigorous sallies of that sprightly humor, which distinguishes *The Author to be let*, and in others, strong touches of that imagination which painted the solemn scenes of *The Wanderer*.

While he was thus cultivating his genius, his father, the Earl of Rivers, was seized with a distemper, which in a short time put an end to his life\*. He had frequently inquired after his son, and had always been amused with fallacious and evasive answers! but, being now in his own opinion on his death-bed, he thought it his duty to provide for him among his other natural children, and therefore demanded a positive account of him, with an importunity, not to be diverted or denied. His mother, who could no longer refuse an answer, determined at least to give such, as should cut him off for ever from that happiness which competence affords, and therefore declared that he was dead; which is, perhaps, the first instance of a lie invented by a mother, to deprive her son of a provision which was designed him by another, and which she could not expect herself, though he should lose it.

\* He died 18th Aug, 1712. R.

## LIFE OF SAVAGE,

~~This~~ was therefore an act of wickedness which ~~could~~ not be defeated, because it could not be suspected; the Earl did not imagine there could exist, in a human form, a mother that would ruin her son without enriching herself, and therefore bestowed upon some other person six thousand pounds, which he had in his will bequeathed to Savage.

The same cruelty, which incited his mother to intercept this provision which had been intended him, prompted her in a short time to another project, a project worthy of such a disposition. She endeavoured to rid herself from the danger of being at any time made known to him, by sending him secretly to the American Plantations\*.

By whose kindness this scheme was counteracted, or by whose interposition she was obliged to lay aside her design, I know not; it is not improbable that the Lady Mason might persuade, or compel her to desist, or perhaps she could not easily find accomplices, wicked enough, to concur in so cruel an action; for it may be conceived, that those who had by a long gradation of guilt hardened their hearts against the sense of common wickedness, would yet be shocked at the design of a mother to expose her son to slavery and want, to expose him without interest, and without provocation; and Savage might, on this occasion, find protectors, and advocates among those who had long traded in

\* Savage's Preface to his Miscellanies.

crimes, and whom compassion had never touched before.

Being hindered, by whatever means, from banishing him into another country, she formed, soon after, a scheme for burying him in poverty and obscurity in his own; and that his station of life, if not the place of his residence, might keep him for ever at a distance from her, she ordered him to be placed with a shoe-maker in Holborn, that, after the usual time of trial, he might become his apprentice\*.

It is generally reported, that this project was for some time successful, and that Savage was employed at the awl longer than he was willing to confess; nor was it, perhaps, any great advantage to him, that an unexpected discovery determined him to quit his occupation.

About this time his nurse, who had always treated him as her own son, died; and it was natural for him to take care of those effects, which by her death were, as he imagined, become his own: he therefore went to her house, opened her boxes, and examined her papers, among which he found some letters written to her by the Lady Mason, which informed him of his birth, and the reasons for which it was concealed.

He was no longer satisfied with the employment which had been allotted him, but thought he

\* Savage's Preface to his Miscellanies.

A right to share the affluence of his mother; therefore, without scruple, applied to her as her son, and made use of every art to awaken her tenderness, and attract her regard. But neither his letters, nor the interposition of those friends which his merit or his distress procured him, made any impression upon her mind. She still resolved to neglect, though she could no longer disown him.

It was to no purpose that he frequently solicited her, to admit him to see her; she avoided him with the most vigilant precaution, and ordered him to be excluded from her house, by whomsoever he might be introduced, and what reason soever he might give for entering it.

Savage was at the same time so touched with the discovery of his real mother, that it was his frequent practice to walk in the dark evenings\*, for several hours, before her door, in hopes of seeing her, as she might come by accident to the window, or cross her apartment with a candle in her hand.

But all his assiduity and tenderness were without effect, for he could neither soften her heart, nor open her hand, and was reduced to the utmost miseries of want, while he was endeavoring to awaken the affection of a mother. He was therefore obliged to seek some other means of support; and having no profession, became, by necessity, an author.

\* See the Plain Dealer.

## LIFE OF SAVAGE.

At this time the attention of the literary world was engrossed by the Bangorian controversy, which filled the press with pamphlets, and the coffee-houses with disputants. Of this subject, as most popular, he made choice for his first attempt, and, without any other knowledge of the question than he had casually collected from conversation, published a poem against the Bishop\*.

What was the success or merit of this performance, I know not; it was probably lost among the innumerable pamphlets to which that dispute gave occasion. Mr. Savage was himself in a little time ashamed of it, and endeavored to suppress it, by destroying all the copies that he could collect.

He then attempted a more gainful kind of writing†, and, in his eighteenth year, offered to the stage a comedy, borrowed from a Spanish plot, which was refused by the players, and was therefore, given by him to Mr. Bullock, who having more interest, made some slight alterations, and brought it upon the stage, under the title of‡ *WOMAN'S A RIDDLE*, but allowed the unhappy author no part of the profit.

Not discouraged however at his repulse, he wrote two years afterwards *LOVE IN A VEIL*, another comedy, borrowed likewise from the Spa-

\* It was called 'The Battle of the Pamphlets.' R.

† Jacob's Lives of the Dramatic Poets. Dr. J.

‡ This play was printed first in 8vo; and afterwards in 12mo, the fifth edition. Dr. J.

nish, but with little better success than before : for though it was received and acted, yet it appeared so late in the year, that the author obtained no other advantage from it, than the acquaintance of Sir Richard Steele, and Mr. Wilks, by whom he was pitied, caressed, and relieved.

Sir Richard Steele, having declared in his favor, with all the ardor of benevolence which constituted his character, promoted his interest with the utmost zeal, related his misfortunes, applauded his merit, took all the opportunities of recommending him, and asserted, that ‘ the inhumanity of his mother, had given him a right, to find every good man his father\*.’

Nor was Mr. Savage admitted to his acquaintance only, but to his confidence, of which he sometimes related an instance, too extraordinary to be omitted, as it affords a very just idea of his patron’s character.

He was once desired by Sir Richard, with an air of the utmost importance, to come very early to his house the next morning. Mr. Savage came as he had promised, found the chariot at the door, and Sir Richard waiting for him, and ready to go out. What was intended, and whither they were to go, Savage could not conjecture, and was not willing to inquire ; but immediately seated himself with Sir Richard. The coachman was ordered to

drive, and they hurried with the utmost expedition to Hyde-Park Corner, where they stopped at a petty tavern, and retired to a private room. Sir Richard then informed him, that he intended to publish a pamphlet, and that he had desired him to come thither that he might write for him. He soon sat down to the work. Sir Richard dictated, and Savage wrote, till the dinner that had been ordered was put upon the table. Savage was surprised at the meanness of the entertainment, and, after some hesitation, ventured to ask for wine, which Sir Richard, not without reluctance, ordered to be brought. They then finished their dinner, and proceeded in their pamphlet, which they concluded in the afternoon.

Mr. Savage then imagined his task over, and expected that Sir Richard would call for the reckoning and return home; but his expectations deceived him, for Sir Richard told him, that he was without money, and that the pamphlet must be sold before the dinner could be paid for; and Savage was therefore obliged to go and offer their new production to sale, for two guineas, which, with some difficulty, he obtained. Sir Richard then returned home, having retired that day only to avoid his creditors, and composed the pamphlet only to discharge his reckoning.

Mr. Savage related another fact equally uncommon, which, though it has no relation to his life, ought to be preserved. Sir Richard Steele hav-

ing one day invited to his house a great number of persons of the first quality, they were surprised at the number of liveries which surrounded the table; and after dinner, when wine and mirth had set them free from the observation of a rigid ceremony, one of them inquired of Sir Richard, how such an expensive train of domestics could be consistent with his fortune. Sir Richard very frankly confessed, that they were fellows of whom he would very willingly be rid. And being then asked why he did not discharge them, declared that they were bailiffs, who had introduced themselves with an execution, and whom, since he could not send them away, he had thought it convenient to embellish with liveries, that they might do him credit while they staid.

His friends were diverted with the expedient, and by paying the debt discharged their attendance, having obliged Sir Richard to promise that they should never again find him graced with a retinue of the same kind.

Under such a tutor, Mr. Savage was not likely to learn prudence or frugality; and perhaps many of the misfortunes which the want of those virtues brought upon him in the following parts of his life, might be justly imputed to so unimproving an example.

Nor did the kindness of Sir Richard end in common favors. He proposed to have established him in some settled scheme of life, and to have con-



tracted a kind of alliance with him, by marrying him to a natural daughter, on whom he intended to bestow a thousand pounds. But though he was always lavish of future bounties, he conducted his affairs in such a manner, that he was very seldom able to keep his promises, or execute his own intentions: and, as he was never able to raise the sum which he had offered, the marriage was delayed. In the mean time, he was officiously informed, that Mr. Savage had ridiculed him; by which he was so much exasperated, that he withdrew the allowance which he had paid him, and never afterwards admitted him to his house.

It is not indeed unlikely that Savage might, by his impudence, expose himself to the malice of a tale-bearer; for his patron had many follies, which, as his discernment easily discovered, his imagination might sometimes incite him to mention too ludicrously. A little knowledge of the world is sufficient to discover that such weakness is very common, and that there are few who do not sometimes, in the wantonness of thoughtless mirth, or the heat of transient resentment, speak of their friends and benefactors with levity and contempt, though in their cooler moments they want neither sense of their kindness, nor reverence for their virtue. The fault therefore of Mr. Savage was rather negligence than ingratitude; but Sir Richard must likewise be acquitted of severity, for who is there that can patiently bear contempt from one

whom he has relieved and supported, whose establishment he has labored, and whose interest he has promoted?

He was now again abandoned to fortune without any other friend than Mr. Wilks; a man, who, whatever were his abilities or skill as an actor, deserves at least to be remembered for his virtues\*, which are not often to be found in the world, and, perhaps, less often in his profession, than in others. To be humane, generous, and candid, is a very high degree of merit in any case; but those qualities deserve still greater praise, when they are found in that condition, which makes al-

\* As it is a loss to mankind when any good action is forgotten, I shall insert another instance of Mr. Wilks's generosity, very little known. Mr. Smith, a gentleman educated at Dublin, being hindered, by an impediment in his pronunciation, from engaging in orders, for which his friends designed him, left his own country, and came to London in quest of employment, but found his solicitations fruitless, and his necessities every day more pressing. In this distress he wrote a tragedy, and offered it to the players, by whom it was rejected. Thus were his last hopes defeated, and he had no other prospect than of the most deplorable poverty. But Mr. Wilks thought his performance, though not perfect, at least worthy of some reward, and therefore offered him a benefit. This favor he improved with so much diligence, that the house offered him a considerable sum, with which he went to Leyden, applied himself to the study of physic, and prosecuted his design with so much diligence and success, that when Dr. Boerhaave was desired by the Curia, to recommend proper persons, to introduce into Russia, the practice and study of physic, Dr. Smith was one of those whom he selected. He had a considerable pension settled on him at his arrival, and was one of the chief physicians at the Russian court. Dr. J.

A Letter from Dr. Smith, in Russia, to Mr. Wilks, is printed in Sherwood's History of the Stage. R.

most every other man, for whatever reason, contemptuous, insolent, petulant, selfish, and brutal.

As Mr. Wilks was one of those to whom calamity seldom complained without relief, he naturally took an unfortunate wit into his protection, and not only assisted him in any casual distresses, but continued an equal and steady kindness to the time of his death.

By his interposition, Mr. Savage once obtained from his mother \* fifty pounds, and a promise of one hundred and fifty more; but it was the fate of this unhappy man, that few promises of any advantage to him were performed. His mother was infected, among others, with the general madness of the South Sea traffic; and, having been disappointed in her expectations, refused to pay what perhaps nothing but the prospect of sudden affluence prompted her to promise.

Being thus obliged to depend upon the friendship of Mr. Wilks, he was consequently an assiduous frequenter of the theatres; and in a short time the amusements of the stage took such possession of his mind, that he never was absent from a play in several years.

This constant attendance naturally procured him the acquaintance of the players, and among others, of Mrs. Oldfield, who was so much pleased with his conversation, and touched with his misfortunes,

\* This note is upon the credit of the author of his Life, which was published 1727. Dr. J.

## LIFE OF SAVAGE.

allowed him a settled pension of fifty  
a-year, which was, during her life, regu-  
larly paid.

That this act of generosity may receive its due  
honor, and that the good actions of Mrs. Oldfield  
may not be sullied by her general character, it is  
proper to mention, that Mr. Savage often declared  
in the strongest terms, that he never saw her alone,  
or in any other place than behind the scenes.

At her death he endeavored to shew his grati-  
tude in the most decent manner, by wearing mourn-  
ing as for a mother; but did not celebrate her in  
elegies \*, because he knew, that too great profusion  
of praise, would only have revived those faults,  
which his natural equity, did not allow him to  
think less, because they were committed by one  
who favored him; but of which, though his vir-  
tue would not endeavor to palliate them, his gra-  
titude would not suffer him to prolong the memo-  
ry, or diffuse the censure.

In his *Wanderer*, he has, indeed, taken an op-  
portunity of mentioning her; but celebrates her  
not for her virtue, but her beauty, an excellence  
which none ever denied her: this is the only epi-  
comium with which he has rewarded her liberal-  
ity, and, perhaps, he has even in this, been too  
lavish of his praise. He seems to have thought,

\* Chetwood, however, has printed a poem on her death,  
which he ascribes to Mr. Savage. See *History of the Stage*, p.  
706. B.

that never to mention his benefactress, would have an appearance of ingratitude, though to have dedicated any particular performance to her memory, would have only betrayed an officious partiality, that, without exalting her character, would have depressed his own.

He had sometimes, by the kindness of Mr. Wilks, the advantage of a benefit, on which occasions he often received uncommon marks of regard and compassion; and was once told by the duke of Dorset, that it was just to consider him as an injured nobleman, and that in his opinion, the nobility ought to think themselves obliged, without solicitation, to take every opportunity of supporting him by their countenance and patronage. But he had generally the mortification to hear, that the whole interest of his mother was employed to frustrate his applications, and that she never left any expedient untried, by which he might be cut off from the possibility of supporting life. The same disposition, she endeavored to diffuse among all those, over whom nature, or fortune gave her any influence, and indeed succeeded too well in her design; but could not always propagate her enmity with her cruelty, for some of those, whom she incited against him, were ashamed of their own conduct, and boasted of that relief, which they never gave him.

In this censure I do not indiscriminately involve all his relations; for he has mentioned with gra-

ende the humanity of one lady, whose name I am now unable to recollect, and to whom therefore, I cannot pay the praises which she deserves, for having acted well in opposition to influence, precept, and example.

The punishment, which our laws inflict upon those parents who murder their infants, is well known, nor has its justice ever been contested; but, if they deserve death, who destroy a child in its birth, what pains can be severe enough for her, who forbears to destroy him, only to inflict sharper miseries upon him; who prolongs his life, only to make him miserable! and who exposes him, without care and without pity, to the malice of oppression, the caprices of chance, and the temptations of poverty; who rejoices to see him overwhelmed with calamities; and, when his own industry, or the charity of others, has enabled him to rise for a short time above his miseries, plunges him again into his former distress?

The kindness of his friends not affording him any constant supply, and the prospect of improving his fortune, by enlarging his acquaintance, necessarily leading him to places of expence, he found it necessary to\* endeavor once more at dramatic poetry, for which he was now better qualified by a more extensive knowledge, and longer observation. But having been unsuccessful in comedy.

though rather for want of opportunities than genius, he resolved now, to try whether he should not be more fortunate in exhibiting a tragedy.

The story which he chose for the subject, was that of Sir Thomas Overbury, a story well adapted to the stage, though perhaps not far enough removed from the present age, to admit, properly, the fictions necessary to complete the plan : for the mind, which naturally loves truth, is always most offended with the violation of those truths, of which we are most certain ; and we of course conceive those facts most certain, which approach nearest to our own time.

Out of this story he formed a tragedy, which, if the circumstances in which he wrote it be considered, will afford at once an uncommon proof of strength of genius, and evenness of mind, of a serenity not to be ruffled, and an imagination not to be suppressed.

During a considerable part of the time in which he was employed upon this performance, he was without lodging, and often without meat ; nor had he any other conveniencies for study, than the fields or the streets allowed him ; there, he used to walk and form his speeches, and afterwards step into a shop, beg for a few moments the use of the pen and ink, and write down what he had composed, upon paper which he had picked up by accident.

If the performance of a writer, thus distressed,

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not perfect, its faults ought surely to be imputed to a cause, very different from want of genius, rather excite pity than provoke censure.

But when, under these discouragements, the tragedy was finished, there yet remained the labor of introducing it on the stage, an undertaking, which, to an ingenuous mind, was in a very high degree vexatious and disgusting; for, having little interest or reputation, he was obliged to submit himself wholly to the players, and admit, with whatever reluctance, the emendations of Mr. Cibber, which he always considered as the disgrace of his performance.

He had indeed in Mr. Hill, another critic of a very different class, from whose friendship he received great assistance on many occasions, and whom he never mentioned but with the utmost tenderness and regard. He had been for some time distinguished by him with very particular kindness, and on this occasion it was natural to apply to him as an author of an established character. He therefore sent this tragedy to him, with a short copy of verses\*, in which he desired his correction. Mr. Hill, whose humanity and politeness are generally known, readily complied with his request; but as he is remarkable for singularity of sentiment, and bold experiments in language, Mr. Savage did not think his play much improved

\* Printed in the late Collection of his Poems.



by his innovation, and had even, at that time, the courage to reject several passages which he could not approve; and, what is still more laudable, Mr. Hill had the generosity not to resent the neglect of his alterations, but wrote the prologue and epilogue, in which he touches on the circumstances of the author with great tenderness.

After all these obstructions and compliances, he was only able to bring his play upon the stage in the summer, when the chief actors had retired, and the rest were in possession of the house, for their own advantage. Among these, Mr. Savage was admitted to play the part of Sir Thomas Overbury\*, by which he gained no great reputation, the theatre being a province for which nature seemed not to have designed him; for neither his voice, look, nor gesture, were such as were expected on the stage; and he was so much ashamed of having been reduced to appear as a player, that he always blotted out his name from the list, when a copy of his tragedy was to be shewn to his friends.

In the publication of his performance he was more successful, for the rays of genius that glimmered in it, that glimmered through all the mists which poverty and Cibber had been able to spread over it, procured him the notice and esteem of

\*It was acted only three nights, the first was on June 19, 1763. When the house opened for the winter season it was once more performed, for the author's benefit, Oct. 2. 2.

many persons, eminent for their rank, their virtue, and their wit.

Of this play, acted, printed, and dedicated, the accumulated profits arose to an hundred pounds, which he thought at that time a very large sum, having been never master of so much before.

In the dedication\*, for which he received ten guineas, there is nothing remarkable. The Preface contains a very liberal encomium on the blooming excellence of Mr. Theophilus Cibber, which Mr. Savage could not in the latter part of his life see his friends about to read, without snatching the play out of their hands. The generosity of Mr. Hill did not end on this occasion; for afterwards, when Mr. Savage's necessities returned, he encouraged a subscription to a miscellany of Poems in a very extraordinary manner, by publishing his story in the *Plain Dealer*†, with some affecting lines, which he asserts to have been written by Mr. Savage upon the treatment received by him from his mother, but of which he was himself the author, as Mr. Savage afterwards declared. These lines, and the paper in which they were inserted, had a very powerful effect upon all but his mother, whom,

\* To Herbert Tryst, Esq. of Herefordshire. Dr. J.

† The *Plain Dealer* was a periodical paper, written by Mr. Hill and Mr. Bond, whom Mr. Savage called the two contending powers of light and darkness. They wrote by turns each six Essays; and the character of the work was observed regularly to rise in Mr. Hill's weeks, and fall in Mr. Bond's. Dr. J.

by making her cruelty more public, they only hardened in her aversion.

Mr. Hill not only promoted the subscription to the Miscellany, but furnished likewise the greatest part of the Poems, of which it is composed, and particularly *The Happy Man*, which he published as a specimen.

The subscriptions of those, whom these papers should influence to patronize merit, in distress, without any other solicitation, were directed to be left at Button's coffee-house; and Mr. Savage going thither a few days afterwards, without expectation of any effect from his proposal, found to his surprize seventy guineas\*, which had been sent him in consequence of the compassion excited by Mr. Hill's pathetic representation.

To this Miscellany he wrote a Preface, in which he gives an account of his mother's cruelty in a very uncommon strain of humor, and with a gaiety of imagination, which the success of his subscription probably produced.

The dedication is addressed to the Lady Mary Wortley Montague, whom he flatters without re-

\*The names of those who so generously contributed to his relief, having been mentioned in a further account, ought not to be omitted here. They were the Duchess of Cleveland, Lady Cheyney, Lady Castlemain, Lady Gower, Lady Lechworth, the Dutchess Dowager and Duchess of Rutland, Lady Stafford, the Countess Dowager of Warwick, Mrs. Mary Tloper, Mrs. Rachel Noel, Duke of Rutland, Lord Gainsborough, Lord Minto, Mr. John Savage, &c.

serve, and to confess the truth, with very little art †. The same observation may be extended to all his Dedications: his compliments are constrained and violent, heaped together without the grace of order, or the decency of introduction: he seems to have written his panegyrics for the perusal only of his patrons, and to imagine, that he had no other task, than to pamper them with praises, however gross,—and, that flattery would make its way to the heart, without the assistance of elegance or invention.

Soon afterwards, the death of the king furnished a general subject for a poetical contest, in which Mr. Savage engaged, and is allowed to have carried the prize of honor from his competitors: but I know not, whether he gained by his performance any other advantage, than the increase of his reputation; though it must certainly have been with farther views that he prevailed upon himself to

† This the following extract from it will prove:

'Since our country has been honored with the glory of your wit, as elevated and immortal as your soul, it no longer remains a doubt, whether your sex have strength of mind in proportion to their sweetness. There is something in your verses as distinguished as your air.—They are as strong as truth, as deep as reason, as clear as innocence, and as smooth as beauty.—They contain a nameless and peculiar mixture of force and grace, which is at once so movingly strong, and so seductively lovely, that it is too scrutable to appear any where, but in your eyes and in your writings.'

'As fortune is not more my enemy, than I am the enemy of flattery, I know not how I can forbear this application to your friendship, because there is scarce a possibility that I should say more than I believe, when I am speaking of your Excellence.' Dr. J.

attempt a species of writing, of which all the topics had been long before exhausted, and which was made at once difficult, by the multitudes that had failed in it, and those that had succeeded.

He was now advancing in reputation, and though frequently involved in very distressful perplexities, appeared, however, to be gaining upon mankind,—when both his fame and his life were endangered by an event, of which it is not yet determined, whether it ought to be mentioned as a crime or a calamity.

On the 20th of November 1727, Mr. Savage came from Richmond, where he then lodged, that he might pursue his studies with less interruption, with an intent to discharge another lodging which he had in Westminster; and accidentally meeting two gentlemen, his acquaintances, whose names were Merchant and Gregory, he went in with them to a neighboring coffee-house, and sat drinking till it was late, it being, in no time of Mr. Savage's life, any part of his character, to be the first of the company that desired to separate. He would willingly have gone to bed in the same house; but there was not room for the whole company, and therefore they agreed to ramble about the streets, and divert themselves with such amusements as should offer themselves till morning.

In this walk, they happened unluckily to discover a light in Robinson's coffee-house, near Chancery cross, and therefore went in. Merchant, with

inducement, demanded a room, and was told there was a good fire in the next parlor, which the company were about to leave, being then paying their reckoning. Merchant, not satisfied with this answer, rushed into the room, and was followed by his companions. He then petulantly placed himself between the company and the fire, and soon after kicked down the table. This produced a quarrel, swords were drawn on both sides, and one Mr. James Sinclair was killed. Savage, having likewise wounded a maid, that held him, forced his way with Merchant out of the house: but being intimidated and confused, without resolution either to fly or stay, they were taken, in a back-court, by one of the company and some soldiers, whom he had called to his assistance.

Being secured and guarded that night, they were in the morning carried before three justices, who committed them to the Gaol-house, from whence, upon the death of Mr. Sinclair; which happened the same day, they were removed in the night to Newgate, where they were however treated with some distinction, exempted from the ignominy of chains, and confined, not among the common criminals, but in the Press-yard.

When the day of trial came, the court was crowded in a very unusual manner, and the public appeared to interest itself as in a case of general concern. The witnesses against Mr. Savage and his friends were, the woman who kept the house,

which was a house of ill fame, and her maid, the men who were in the room with Mr. Sinclair, and a woman of the town, who had been drinking with them, and with whom one of them had been seen in bed. They swore in general, that Merchant gave the provocation, which Savage and Gregory drew their swords to justify; that Savage drew first, and that he stabbed Sinclair when he was not in a posture of defence, or, while Gregory commanded his sword; that after he had given the thrust he turned pale, and would have retired, but the maid clung round him, and one of the company endeavored to detain him, from whom he broke, by cutting the maid on the head, but was afterwards taken in a court.

There was some difference in their depositions; one did not see Savage give the wound, another saw it given when Sinclair held his point towards the ground: and the woman of the town asserted, that she did not see Sinclair's sword at all: this difference however was very far from amounting to inconsistency; but it was sufficient to show, that the hurry of the dispute was such, that it was not easy to discover the truth with relation to particular circumstances, and that therefore some deductions were to be made from the credibility of the testimonies.

Sinclair had declared several times before his death, that he received his wound from Savage: nor did Savage at his trial deny the fact, but con-

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endeavored partly, to extenuate it, by urging the suddenness of the whole action, and the impossibility of any ill design, or premeditated malice; and partly, to justify it by the necessity of self-defence, and the hazard of his own life, if he had lost that opportunity of giving the thrust: he observed, that neither reason nor law obliged a man to wait for the blow which was threatened, and which, if he should suffer it, he might never be able to return; that it was always allowable to prevent an assault, and to preserve life by taking away that of the adversary, by whom it was endangered.

With regard to the violence with which he endeavored to escape, he declared, that it was not his design to fly from justice, or decline a trial, but to avoid the expences and severities of a prison; and that he intended to have appeared at the bar without compulsion.

“ This defence, which took up more than an hour, was heard by the multitude that thronged the court with the most attentive and respectful silence: those who thought he ought not to be acquitted, owned, that applause could not be refused him; and those who before pitied his misfortunes, now revered his abilities.

The witnesses which appeared against him, were proved to be persons of characters, which did not entitle them to much credit; a common strumpet, a woman by whom strumpets were entertained, and



a man by whom they were supported; and the character of Savage was by several persons of distinction asserted to be that of a modest inoffensive man, not inclined to brouls or to insolence, and who had, to that time, been only known for his misfortunes and his wit.

Had his audience been his judges, he had undoubtedly been acquitted; but Mr. Page, who was then upon the bench, treated him with his usual insolence and severity, and when he had summed up the evidence, endeavored to exasperate the jury, as Mr. Savage used to relate it, with this eloquent harangue:

‘Gentlemen of the jury, you are to consider  
 ‘that Mr. Savage is a very great man, a much  
 ‘greater man than you or I, gentlemen of the jury;  
 ‘that he wears very fine clothes, much finer clothes  
 ‘than you or I, gentlemen of the jury; that he  
 ‘has abundance of money in his pocket, much  
 ‘more money than you or I, gentlemen of the jury;  
 ‘but, gentlemen of the jury, is it not a very hard  
 ‘case, gentlemen of the jury, that Mr. Savage  
 ‘should therefore kill you or me, gentlemen of  
 ‘the jury?’

Mr. Savage, hearing his defence thus misrepresented, and the men who were to decide his fate, incited against him by invidious comparisons, resolutely acquitted, that his cause was not capriciously explained, and began to recapitulate what he had before said with regard to his condition, and the

necessity of endeavoring to escape the expences of imprisonment ; but the judge, having ordered him to be silent, and repeated his orders without effect, commanded that he should be taken from the bar by force.

The jury, then heard the opinion of the judge, that good characters were of no weight against positive evidence, though they might turn the scale where it was doubtful ; and that though, when two men attack each other, the death of either is only manslaughter ; but where one is the aggressor, as in the case before them, and, in pursuance of his first attack, kills the other, the law supposes the action, however sudden, to be malicious. They then deliberated upon their verdict, and determined that Mr. Savage and Mr. Gregory were guilty of murder ; and Mr. Merchant, who had no sword, only of manslaughter.

Thus ended this memorable trial, which lasted eight hours. Mr. Savage and Mr. Gregory were conducted back to prison, where they were there closely confined, and loaded with irons of fifty pounds weight : four days afterwards they were sent back to the court to receive sentence ; on which occasion Mr. Savage made, as far as it could be retained in memory, the following speech :

“ It is now, my Lord, too late to offer my thing by way of defence or vindication ; nor can we expect from your Lordships, in this court, but the sentence which the law

' you, as judges, to pronounce against men of our  
 ' calamitous condition.—But we are also per-  
 ' suaded, that as mere men, and out of this seat of  
 ' rigorous justice, you are susceptible of the tender  
 ' passions, and too humane not to commiserate the  
 ' unhappy situation of those, whom the law some-  
 ' times perhaps—exacts—from you to pronounce  
 ' upon. No doubt you distinguish between of-  
 ' fences which arise out of premeditation, and a  
 ' disposition habituated to vice and immorality,—  
 ' and transgressions, which are the unhappy and  
 ' unforeseen effects of casual absence of reason, and  
 ' sudden impulse of passions: we therefore hope  
 ' you will contribute all you can to an extension  
 ' of that mercy, which the gentlemen of the jury  
 ' have been pleased to shew Mr. Merchant, who  
 ' following facts as sworn against us by the evi-  
 ' dence) has led us into this our calamity. I hope  
 ' this will not be construed as if we meant to re-  
 ' flect upon that gentleman, or remove any thing  
 ' due to him, or that we repine the more at  
 ' our fate, because he has no participation of it:  
 ' No, my Lord! For my part, I declare nothing  
 ' could more soften my grief, than to be without  
 ' any companion in so great a misfortune.

Mr. Savage had now no hopes of life, but from  
 the mercy of the crown, which was very actively  
 solicited by his friends, and which, with whatever  
 difficulty the story may obtain belief, was de-  
 termined only by his mother.

To prejudice the Queen against him, she made use of an incident, which was omitted in the order of time, that it might be mentioned together with the purpose which it was made to serve. Mr. Savage, when he had discovered his birth, had an incessant desire to speak to his mother, who always avoided him in public, and refused him admission into her house. One evening walking, as it was his custom, in the street that she inhabited, he saw the door of her house by accident open; he entered it, and, finding no person in the passage to hinder him, went up stairs to salute her. She discovered him before he entered her chamber, alarmed the family with the most distressful outcries, and when she had by her screams gathered them about her, ordered them to drive out of the house that villain, who had forced himself in upon her, and endeavored to murder her. Savage, who had attempted with the most submissive candor to soften her rage, hearing her utter to assemble an accusation, thought it prudent to retire; and, I believe, never attempted afterwards to speak to her.

But, shocked as he was with her falsehood and her cruelty, he imagined that she intended no other use of her lie, than to set herself free from his embraces and solicitations, and was very far from suspecting that she would treasure it in her memory, as an instrument of future trickery.

or that she would endeavor, for this fictitious assault, to deprive him of his life.

But when the Queen was solicited for his pardon, and informed of the severe treatment which he had suffered from his judge, she answered, that, however unjustifiable might be the manner of his trial, or whatever extenuation the action for which he was condemned might admit, she could not think that man a proper object of the King's mercy, who had been capable of entering his mother's house in the night, with an intent to murder her.

By whom this atrocious calumny had been transmitted to the Queen; whether she that invented had the front to relate it; whether she found any one weak enough to credit it, or corrupt enough to concur with her in her hateful design, I know not: but methods had been taken to persuade the Queen so strongly of the truth of it, that she for a long time refused to hear any one of those who petitioned for his life.

Thus had Savage perished by the evidence of a bawd,—a strumpet,—and his mother,—had not justice and compassion procured him an advocate, of rank too great to be rejected unheard, and, of virtue too eminent to be heard, without being believed. His merit and his calamities happened to reach the ear of the Countess of Hertford, who engaged in his support with all the tenderness that is excited by pity, and all the zeal which is kindled

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by generosity; and, demanding an audience of the Queen, laid before her the whole series of his mother's cruelty, exposed the improbability of an accusation, by which he was charged with an intent to commit a murder, that could produce no advantage, and soon convinced her, how little his former conduct could deserve to be mentioned, as a reason for extraordinary severity.

The interposition of this Lady was so successful, that he was soon after admitted to bail, and, on the 9th of March 1728, pleaded the King's pardon.

It is natural to inquire, upon what motives his mother could persecute him in a manner, so outrageous and implacable; for what reason she could employ all the arts of malice, and all the snares of calumny, to take away the life of her own son, of a son who never injured her, who was never supported by her expence, nor obstructed any prospect of pleasure or advantage: why she should endeavor to destroy him by a lie—a lie, which could not gain credit, but must vanish of itself at the first moment of examination, and of which only this can be said to make it probable, that it may be observed from her conduct, that the most execrable crimes are sometimes committed without apparent temptation.

This mother is still alive \*, and may perhaps

\* She died Oct 11th, 1753, at her house in Old Bond-street, near above fourscore.

even yet, though her malice was so often defeated, enjoy the pleasure of reflecting, that the life which she often endeavored to destroy, was at last shortened by her maternal offices; that though she could not transplant her son to the plantations, bury him in the shop of a mechanic, or hasten the hand of the public executioner, she has yet had the satisfaction of embittering all his hours, and forcing him into exigencies that hurried on his death.

It is by no means necessary to aggravate the enormity of this woman's conduct, by placing it in opposition to that of the Countess of Hertford; no one can fail to observe how much more amiable it is to relieve, than to oppress, and to rescue innocence from destruction, than to destroy without an injury.

Mr. Savage, during his imprisonment, his trial, and the time in which he lay under sentence of death, behaved with great firmness and equality of mind, and confirmed, by his fortitude, the esteem of those who before admired him for his abilities\*.

\* It appears that, during his confinement, he wrote a letter to his mother, which he sent to Theophilus Cibber, that it might be transmitted to her through the means of Mr. Wilks. In his letter to Cibber he says—'As to death, I am easy, and dare meet it like a man—all that touches me is the concern of my friends, and a reconciliation with my mother—I cannot express the agony I felt, when I wrote the letter to her—if you can find any decent excuse for showing it to Mrs. Olden, do, for I would have all my friends (and that admirable Lady in particular) be satisfied I have done my duty towards it.—Mr. Young to my dear mother, most passionately kind.' B.

The peculiar circumstances of his life were made more generally known by a short account\*, which was then published, and of which several thousands were in a few weeks dispersed over the nation: and the compassion of mankind operated so powerfully in his favor, that he was enabled, by frequent presents, not only to support himself, but to assist Mr. Gregory in prison; and, when he was pardoned and released, he found the number of his friends not lessened.

1. The nature of the act for which he had been tried was in itself doubtful; of the evidences which appeared against him, the character of the man was not unexceptionable, that of the woman notoriously infamous; she, whose testimony chiefly influenced the jury to condemn him, afterwards retracted her assertions. He always himself denied that he was drunk, as had been generally reported. Mr. Gregory, who is now (1744) Collector of Antigua, is said to declare him far less criminal than he was imagined, even by some who favored him; and Page himself afterwards confessed, that he had treated him with uncommon rigor. When all these particulars are rated together, perhaps the memory of Savage may not be much sullied by his trial.

2. Some time after he obtained his liberty, he met in the street, the woman that had sworn with

\* Written by Mr. Beckingham and another gentleman. Dr. J.



much malignity against him. She informed him, that she was in distress, and, with a degree of confidence not easily attainable, desired him to relieve her. He, instead of insulting her misery, and taking pleasure in the calamities of one who had brought his life into danger, reproved her gently for her perjury; and changing the only guinea that he had, divided it equally between her and himself.

This is an action which in some ages would have made a saint, and perhaps in others a hero, and which, without any hyperbolical encomiums, must be allowed to be an instance of uncommon generosity, an act of complicated virtue; by which he at once relieved the poor, corrected the vicious, and forgave an enemy; by which he at once remitted the strongest provocations, and exercised the most ardent charity.

Compassion was indeed the distinguishing quality of Savage; he never appeared inclined to take advantage of weakness, to attack the defenceless, or to press upon the falling; whoever was distressed, was certain at least of his good wishes; and when he could give no assistance to extricate them from misfortunes, he endeavored to soothe them by sympathy and tenderness.

But when his heart was not softened by the sight of misery, he was sometimes obstinate in his resentment, and did not quickly lose the remembrance of an injury. He always continued to speak with

anger of the insolence and partiality of Page, and a short time before his death revenged it by a satire\*.

It is natural to inquire, in what terms Mr. Savage spoke of this fatal action, when the danger was over, and he was under no necessity of using any art to set his conduct in the fairest light. He was not willing to dwell upon it; and, if he transiently mentioned it, appeared neither to consider himself as a murderer, nor as a man wholly free from the guilt of blood†. How much and how long he regretted it, appeared in a poem which he published many years afterwards. On occasion of a copy of verses, in which the failings of good men were recounted, and in which the author had endeavored to illustrate his position, that 'the best may sometimes deviate from virtue,' by an instance of murder committed by Savage in the heat of wine, Savage remarked, that it was no very just representation of a good man, to suppose him liable to drunkenness, and disposed in his riots to cut throats.

He was now indeed at liberty, but was, as before, without any other support than accidental favors and uncertain patronage afforded him; sources by which he was sometimes very liberally supplied, and which at other times were suddenly

\* Printed in the late collection.

† In one of his letters he styles it 'a fatal quarrel, but too well known.' Dr. J.

stopped ; so that he spent his life between want and plenty ; or, what was yet worse, between beggary and extravagance ; for, as whatever he received was the gift of chance, which might as well favor him at one time as another, he was tempted to squander what he had, because he always hoped to be immediately supplied.

Another cause of his profusion was the absurd kindness of his friends, who at once rewarded and enjoyed his abilities, by treating him at taverns, and habituating him to pleasures which he could not afford to enjoy, and which he was not able to deny himself, though he purchased the luxury of a single night by the anguish of cold and hunger for a week.

The experience of these inconveniences determined him to endeavor after some settled income, which, having long found submission and entreaties fruitless, he attempted to extort from his mother by rougher methods. He had now, as he acknowledged, lost that tenderness for her, which the whole series of her cruelty had not been able wholly to repress, till he found, by the efforts which she made for his destruction, that she was not content with refusing to assist him, and being neutral in his struggles with poverty, but was as ready to snatch every opportunity of adding to his misfortunes ; and that she was now to be considered as an enemy implacably malicious, whom nothing but his blood could satisfy. He therefore

threatened to harass her with lampoons, and to publish a copious narrative of her conduct, unless she consented to purchase an exemption from infamy, by allowing him a pension.

This expedient proved successful. Whether ~~glamour~~ still survived, though ~~virtue~~ was extinct, or whether her relations had more delicacy than herself, and imagined that some of the darts which satire might point at her would glance upon them; Lord Tyrconnel, whatever were his motives, upon his promise to lay aside his design of exposing the cruelty of his mother, received him into his family, treated him as his equal, and engaged to allow him a pension of two hundred pounds a-year.

This was the golden part of Mr. Savage's life; and for some time he had no reason to complain of fortune; his appearance was splendid, his expences large, and his acquaintance extensive. He was courted by all who endeavored to be thought men of genius, and cherished by all who valued themselves upon a refined taste. To admire Mr. Savage, was a proof of discernment; and to be acquainted with him, was a title to poetical reputation. His presence was sufficient to make any place of public entertainment popular; and his approbation and example constituted the fashion. So powerful is genius, when it is invested with the glitter of affluence! Men willingly pay to fortune that regard which they owe to merit, and are pleased

when they have an opportunity at once of gratifying their vanity, and practising their duty. \*

This interval of prosperity furnished him with opportunities of enlarging his knowledge of human nature, by contemplating life from its highest gradations to its lowest ; and, had he afterwards applied to dramatic poetry, he would perhaps not have had many superiors ; for, as he never suffered any scene to pass before his eyes without notice, he had treasured in his mind all the different combinations of passions, and the innumerable mixtures of vice and virtue, which distinguish one character from another ; and, as his conception was strong, his expressions were clear, he easily received impressions from objects, and very forcibly transmitted them to others.

Of his exact observations on human life he has left a proof, which would do honor to the greatest names, in a small pamphlet, called *The Author to be let*\*, where he introduces Iscariot Hackney, a prostitute scribbler, giving an account of his birth, his education, his disposition, and morals, habits of life, and maxims of conduct. In the introduction are related many secret histories of the petty writers of that time, but sometimes mixed with ungenerous reflections on their birth, their circumstances, or those of their relations ; nor can it be denied, that some passages are such as Iscariot Hackney might himself have produced.

\* Printed in his Works, vol. ii. p. 231.

He was accused likewise of living in an appearance of friendship with some whom he satirised, and of making use of the confidence which he gained by a seeming kindness, to discover failings and expose them : it must be confessed, that Mr. Savage's esteem was no very certain possession, and that he would lampoon at one time those whom he had praised at another.

It may be alleged, that the same man may change his principles ; and that he, who was once deservedly commended, may be afterwards satirised with equal justice ; or that the poet was dazzled with the appearance of virtue, and found the man whom he had celebrated, when he had an opportunity of examining him more narrowly, unworthy of the panegyric which he had too hastily bestowed ; and that, as a false satire ought to be recanted, for the sake of him whose reputation may be injured, false praise ought likewise to be obviated, lest the distinction between vice and virtue should be lost, lest a bad man should be trusted upon the credit of his encomiast, or lest others should endeavor to obtain the like praises by the same means.

But though these excuses may be often plausible, and sometimes just, they are very seldom satisfactory to mankind ; and the writer, who is not constant to his subject, quickly sinks into contempt, his satire loses its force, and his panegyric is va-

flue, and he is only considered at one time as a flatterer, and as a calumniator at another.

To avoid these imputations, it is only necessary to follow the rules of virtue, and to preserve an unvaried regard to truth. For though it is undoubtedly possible, that a man, however cautious, may be sometimes deceived by an artful appearance of virtue, or by false evidences of guilt, such errors will not be frequent; and it will be allowed, that the name of an author would never have been made contemptible, had no man ever said what he did not think, or misled others but when he was himself deceived.

*The Author to be let* was first published in a single pamphlet, and afterwards inserted in a collection of pieces relating to the Dunciad, which were addressed by Mr. Savage to the Earl of Middlesex, in a \*dedication which he was prevailed upon to sign, though he did not write it, and in which there are some positions, that the true author would perhaps not have published under his own name, and on which Mr. Savage afterwards reflected with no great satisfaction; the enumeration of the bad effects of the uncontrolled freedom of the press, and the assertion that the 'liberties taken by the writers of Journals with their superiors were exorbitant and unjustifiable,' very ill became men, who have themselves not always shewn the exact

\* See his Works, vol. ii. p. 233.

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ward to the laws of subordination in their kings, and who have often satirised those that at least thought themselves their superiors, as they were eminent for their hereditary rank, and employed in the highest offices of the kingdom. But this is only an instance of that partiality which almost every man indulges with regard to himself: the liberty of the press is a blessing when we are inclined to write against others, and a calamity when we find ourselves overborne by the multitude of our assailants; as the power of the crown is always thought too great by those who suffer by its influence, and too little by those in whose favor it is exerted; and a standing army is generally accounted necessary by those who command, and dangerous and oppressive by those who support it.

Mr. Savage was likewise very far from believing, that the letters annexed to each species of bad poets in the *Bathos* were, as he was directed to assert, 'set down at random;' for when he was charged by one of his friends with putting his name to such an improbability, he had no other answer to make, than that 'he did not think of it;' and his friend had too much tenderness to reply, that next to the crime of writing contrary to what he thought, was that of writing without thinking.

After having remarked what is false in this dedication, it is proper that I observe the impartiality which I recommend, by declaring what Savage asserted; that the account of the circum-



stances which attended the publication of the *Dunciad*, however strange and improbable, was exactly true.

The publication of this piece at this time raised Mr. Savage a great number of enemies among those that were attacked by Mr. Pope, with whom he was considered as a kind of confederate, and whom he was suspected of supplying with private intelligence and secret incidents: so that the ignominy of an informer was added to the terror of a satirist.

That he was not altogether free from literary hypocrisy, and that he sometimes spoke one thing, and wrote another, cannot be denied; because he himself confessed, that, when he lived with great familiarity with Dennis, he wrote an \* epigram against him.

Mr. Savage, however, set all the malice of all the pigmy writers at defiance, and thought the friendship of Mr. Pope cheaply purchased, by being exposed to their censure and their hatred; nor had he any reason to repent of the preference, for

\* This epigram was, I believe, never published.

' Should Dennis publish you had stabb'd your brother,  
' Lampoon'd your monarch, or debauch'd your mother,  
' Hey, what revenge on Dennis can be had,  
' Too dull for laughter, for reply too mad?  
' On one so poor you cannot take the law,  
' On one so old your sword you scorn to draw.  
' Uncog'd then, let the harmless monster rage,  
' Secure in dulness, madness, want, and age.'

Dr. J.

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he found Mr. Pope a steady and unalienable friend almost to the end of his life.

About this time, notwithstanding his avowed neutrality with regard to party, he published a panegyric on Sir Robert Walpole, for which he was rewarded by him with twenty guineas, a sum not very large, if either the excellence of the performance, or the affluence of the patron, be considered; but greater than he afterwards obtained from a person of yet higher rank, and more desirous, in appearance, of being distinguished as a patron of literature.

As he was very far from approving the conduct of Sir Robert Walpole, and in conversation mentioned him sometimes with acrimony, and generally with contempt; as he was one of those who were always zealous in their assertions of the justice of the late opposition, jealous of the rights of the people, and alarmed by the long-continued triumph of the court; it was natural to ask him what could induce him to employ his poetry in praise of that man who was, in his opinion, an enemy to liberty, and an oppressor of his country? He alleged, that he was then dependent upon the Lord Tyrconnel, who was an implicit follower of the ministry; and that being enjoined by him, not without menaces, to write in praise of his leader, he had not resolution sufficient to sacrifice the pleasure of affluence to that of integrity.

On this, and on many other occasions, he was ready to lament the misery of living at the tables of other men, which was his fate from the beginning to the end of his life ; for I know not whether he ever had, for three months together, a settled habitation, in which he could claim a right of residence.

To this unhappy state it is just to impute much of the inconstancy of his conduct ; for though a readiness to comply with the inclination of others was no part of his natural character, yet he was sometimes obliged to relax his obstinacy, and submit his own judgment, and even his virtue, to the government of those by whom he was supported : so that, if his miseries were sometimes the consequences of his faults, he ought not yet to be wholly excluded from compassion, because his faults were very often the effects of his misfortunes.

In this gay period\* of his life, while he was surrounded by affluence and pleasure, he published *The Wanderer*, a moral poem, of which the design is comprised in these lines :

I fly all public care, all venal strife,  
To try the still, compar'd with active, life ;  
To prove, by these, the sons of men may owe  
The fruits of bliss to bursting clouds of woe ;  
That ev'n calamity, by thought refin'd,  
Inspires and adorns the thinking mind.

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And more distinctly in the following passage :

By woe, the soul to daring action swells ;  
By woe, in plaintness patience it excels ;  
From patience, prudent clear experience springs,  
And traces knowledge through the course of things !  
Thence hope is form'd, thence fortitude, success,  
Renown : — whate'er men covet and caress.

This performance was always considered by himself as his master-piece ; and Mr. Pope, when he asked his opinion of it, told him, that he read it once over, and was not displeased with it ; that it gave him more pleasure at the second perusal, and delighted him still more at the third.

It has been generally objected to *The Wanderer*, that the disposition of the parts is irregular ; that the design is obscure, and the plan perplexed ; that the images, however beautiful, succeed each other without order ; and that the whole performance is not so much a regular fabric, as a heap of shining materials thrown together by accident, which strikes rather with the solemn magnificence of a stupendous ruin, than the elegant grandeur of a finished pile.

This criticism is universal, and therefore it is reasonable to believe it at least in a great degree just ; but Mr. Savage was always of a contrary opinion, and thought his drift could only be missed by negligence or stupidity, and that the whole plan was regular, and the parts distinct.

It was never denied to abound with strong representations of nature, and just observations upon life; and it may easily be observed, that most of his pictures have an evident tendency to illustrate his first great position, 'that good is the consequence of evil.' The sun that burns up the mountains, fructifies the vales; the deluge that rushes down the broken rocks with dreadful impetuosity, is separated into purling brooks; and the rage of the hurricane purifies the air.

Even in this poem he has not been able to forbear one touch upon the cruelty of his mother, which, though remarkably delicate and tender, is a proof how deep an impression it had upon his mind.

This must be at least acknowledged, which ought to be thought equivalent to many other excellencies, that this poem can promote no other purposes than those of virtue, and that it is written with a very strong sense of the efficacy of religion.

But my province is rather to give the history of Mr. Savage's performances, than to display their beauties, or to obviate the criticisms which they have occasioned; and therefore I shall not dwell upon the particular passages which deserve applause: I shall neither shew the excellence of his descriptions, nor expatiate on the terrific portrait of suicide, nor point out the artful touches, by which he has distinguished the intellectual features of the rebels, who suffer death in his last

canto. It is, however, proper to observe, that Mr. Savage always declared the characters wholly fictitious, and without the least allusion to any real persons or actions.

From a poem so diligently labored, and so successfully finished, it might be reasonably expected that he should have gained considerable advantage; nor can it, without some degree of indignation and concern, be told, that he sold the copy for ten guineas, of which he afterwards returned two, that the two last sheets of the work might be reprinted, of which he had in his absence entrusted the correction to a friend, who was too indolent to perform it with accuracy.

A superstitious regard to the correction of his sheets was one of Mr. Savage's peculiarities: he often altered, revised, recurred to his first reading or punctuation, and again adopted the alteration; he was dubious and irresolute without end, as on a question of the last importance, and at last was seldom satisfied; the intrusion or omission of a comma was sufficient to discompose him, and he would lament an error of a single letter as a heavy calamity. In one of his letters relating to an impression of some verses, he remarks, that he had, with regard to the correction of the proof, 'a spell upon him;' and indeed the anxiety with which he dwelt upon the minutest and most trifling niceties, deserved no other name than that of fascination.

That he sold so valuable a performance for so small a price, was not to be imputed either to necessity, by which the learned and ingenious are often obliged to submit to very hard conditions; or to avarice, by which the booksellers are frequently incited to oppress that genius by which they are supported; but to that intemperate desire of pleasure, and habitual slavery to his passions, which involved him in many perplexities. He happened at that time to be engaged in the pursuit of some trifling gratification, and, being without money for the present occasion, sold his poem to the first bidder, and perhaps for the first price that was proposed, and would probably have been content with less, if less had been offered him.

This poem was addressed to the Lord Tyrconnel, not only in the first lines, but in a formal dedication filled with the highest strains of panegyric, and the warmest professions of gratitude, but by no means remarkable for delicacy of connexion or elegance of style.

These praises in a short time he found himself inclined to retract, being discarded by the man on whom he had bestowed them, and whom he then immediately discovered not to have deserved them. Of this quarrel, which every day made more bitter, Lord Tyrconnel and Mr. Savage assigned very different reasons, which might perhaps all in reality concur, though they were not all convenient to be alleged by either party. Lord Tyrconnel

affirmed, that it was the constant practice of Mr. Savage to enter a tavern with any company that proposed it, drink the most expensive wines with great profusion, and when the reckoning was demanded, to be without money : if, as it often happened, his company were willing to defray his part, the affair ended, without any ill consequences ; but if they were refractory, and expected that the wine should be paid for by him that drank it, his method of composition was, to take them with him to his own apartment, assume the government of the house, and order the butler, in an imperious manner, to set the best wine in the cellar before his company, who often drank till they forgot the respect due to the house in which they were entertained, indulged themselves in the utmost extravagance of merriment, practised the most licentious frolics, and committed all the outrages of drunkenness.

Nor was this the only charge which Lord Tyrconnel brought against him : Having given him a collection of valuable books, stamped with his own arms, he had the mortification to see them in a short time exposed to sale upon the stalls, it being usual with Mr. Savage, when he wanted a small sum, to take his books to the pawnbroker.

Whoever was acquainted with Mr. Savage, easily credited both these accusations : for having been obliged, from his first entrance into the world, to subsist upon expedients, affluence was not able to



exalt him above them; and so much was he delighted with wine and conversation, and so long had he been accustomed to live by chance, that he would at any time go to the tavern without scruple, and trust for the reckoning to the liberality of his company, and frequently of company to whom he was very little known. This conduct indeed very seldom drew upon him those inconveniences that might be feared by any other person; for his conversation was so entertaining, and his address so pleasing, that few thought the pleasure which they received from him dearly purchased, by paying for his wine. It was his peculiar happiness, that he scarcely ever found a stranger, whom he did not leave a friend; but it must likewise be added, that he had not often a friend long, without obliging him to become a stranger.

Mr. Savage, on the other hand, declared, that Lord Tyrconnel\* quarrelled with him, because he would not subtract from his own luxury and extravagance what he had promised to allow him; and that his resentment was only a plea for the violation of his promise: He asserted, that he had done nothing that ought to exclude him from that subsistence which he thought not so much a favor, as a debt, since it was offered him upon conditions which he had never broken; and that his only

\* His expression in one of his letters was, 'that Lord Tyrconnel had involved his estate, and therefore poorly sought an occasion to quarrel with him.' Dr. J.

fault was, that he could not be supported with nothing.

He acknowledged, that Lord Tyrconnel often exhorted him to regulate his method of life, and not to spend all his nights in taverns, and that he appeared desirous that he would pass those hours with him, which he so freely bestowed upon others. This demand, Mr. Savage considered as a censure of his conduct, which he could never patiently bear, and which, in the latter and cooler parts of his life, was so offensive to him, that he declared it as his resolution, 'to spurn that friend, who 'should presume to dictate to him;' and it is not likely, that in his earlier years he received admonitions with more calmness.

He was likewise inclined to resent such expectations, as tending to infringe his liberty, of which he was very jealous, when it was necessary to the gratification of his passions; and declared, that the request was still more unreasonable, as the company to which he was to have been confined, was insupportably disagreeable. This assertion, affords another instance of that inconsistency of his writings with his conversation, which was so often to be observed. He forgot, how lavishly he had, in his Dedication to *The Wanderer*, extolled the delicacy and penetration, the humanity and generosity, the candor and politeness of the man, whom, when he no longer loved him, he declared to be a wretch without understanding, without good-nature, and

without justice ; of whose name he thought himself obliged to leave no trace in any future edition of his writings ; and accordingly blotted it out of that copy of *The Wanderer* which was in his hands.

During his continuance with the Lord Tyrconnel, he wrote *The Triumph of Health and Mirth*, on the recovery of Lady Tyrconnel from a languishing illness. This performance is remarkable, not only for the gaiety of the ideas, and the melody of the numbers, but for the agreeable fiction upon which it is formed. Mirth, overwhelmed with sorrow for the sickness of her favorite, takes a flight in quest of her sister 'Health, whom she finds reclined upon the brow of a lofty mountain, amidst the fragrance of perpetual spring, with the breezes of the morning sporting about her. Being solicited by her sister Mirth, she readily promises her assistance, flies away in a cloud, and impregnates the waters of Bath with new virtues, by which the sickness of Belinda is relieved.

As the reputation of his abilities, the particular circumstances of his birth and life, the splendor of his appearance, and the distinction which was for some time paid him by Lord Tyrconnel, entitled him to familiarity with persons of higher rank than those to whose conversation he had been before admitted ; he did not fail to gratify that curiosity, which induced him to take a nearer view of those whom their birth, their employments, or their

fortunes, necessarily place at a distance from the greatest part of mankind, and to examine whether their merit was magnified or diminished by the medium through which it was contemplated; whether splendor with which they dazzled their admirers was inherent in themselves, or only reflected on them by the objects that surrounded them; and whether great men were selected for high stations, or high stations made great men.

For this purpose he took all opportunities of conversing familiarly with those who were most conspicuous at that time for their power or their influence; he watched their looser moments, and examined their domestic behavior, with that acuteness which nature had given him, and which the uncommon variety of his life had contributed to increase, and that inquisitiveness which must always be produced in a vigorous mind, by an absolute freedom from all pressing or domestic engagements.

His discernment was quick, and therefore he soon found in every person, and in every affair, something that deserved attention; he was supported by others, without any care for himself, and was therefore at leisure to pursue his observations.

More circumstances, to constitute a critic on human life, could not easily concur, nor indeed could any man, who assumed, from accidental advantages, more praise than he could justly claim

from his real merit, admit any acquaintance more dangerous than that of Savage; of whom likewise it must be confessed, that abilities really exalted above the common level, or virtue refined from passion, or proof against corruption, could not easily find an abler judge, or a warmer advocate.

What was the result of Mr. Savage's inquiry, though he was not much accustomed to conceal his discoveries, it may not be entirely safe to relate, because the persons whose characters he criticised are powerful; and power and resentment are seldom strangers; nor would it perhaps be wholly just, because what he asserted in conversation might, though true in general, be heightened by some momentary ardor of imagination, and, as it can be delivered only from memory, may be imperfectly represented; so that the picture at first aggravated, and then unskillfully copied, may be justly suspected to retain no great resemblance of the original.

It may, however, be observed, that he did not appear to have formed very elevated ideas of those to whom the administration of affairs, or the conduct of parties, has been intrusted; who have been considered as the advocates of the crown, or the guardians of the people; and who have obtained the most implicit confidence, and the loudest applauses. Of one particular person, who has been at one time so popular as to be generally esteemed, and at another so formidable as to be

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Generally detested, he observed, that his acquisitions had been small, or that his capacity was narrow, and that the whole range of his mind was from obscenity to politics, and from politics to obscenity.

But the opportunity of indulging his speculations on great characters was now at an end. He was banished from the table of Lord Tyrconnel, and turned again adrift upon the world, without prospect of finding quickly any other harbor. As prudence was not one of the virtues by which he was distinguished, he had made no provision against a misfortune like this. And though it is not to be imagined but that the separation must for some time have been preceded by coldness, peevishness, or neglect, though it was undoubtedly the consequence of accumulated provocations on both sides; yet every one that knew Savage will readily believe, that to him it was sudden as a stroke of thunder; that, though he might have transiently suspected it, he had never suffered any thought so displeasing to sink into his mind, but that he had driven it away by amusements, or dreams of future felicity and affluence, and had never taken any measures by which he might prevent a precipitation from plenty to indigence.

This quarrel and separation, and the difficulties to which Mr. Savage was exposed by them, were soon known both to his friends and enemies; nor was it long before he perceived, from the behavior

of both, how much is added to the lustre of genius by the ornaments of wealth.

His condition did not appear to excite much compassion; for he had not always been careful, to use the advantages he enjoyed, with that moderation, which ought to have been, with more than usual caution, preserved by him, who knew, if he had reflected, that he was only a dependant on the bounty of another, whom he could expect to support him no longer, than he endeavored to preserve his favor by complying with his inclinations, and whom he nevertheless set at defiance, and was continually irritating by negligence or encroachments.

Examples need not be sought, at any great distance, to prove, that superiority of fortune has a natural tendency to kindle pride, and that pride seldom fails to exert itself in contempt and insult; and if this is often the effect of hereditary wealth, and of honors enjoyed only by the merits of others, it is some extenuation, of any indecent triumphs, to which this unhappy man may have been betrayed, that his prosperity was heightened by the force of novelty, and made more intoxicating, by a sense of the misery in which he had so long languished, and perhaps of the insults which he had formerly borne, and which he might now think himself entitled to avenge. It is too common for those who have unjustly suffered pain, or afflict is likewise in their turn with the same

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that they have a right to treat  
as they have themselves been treated.

That Mr. Savage was too much elevated by any good fortune, is generally known; and some passages of his Introduction, to *The Author to be let*, sufficiently shew, that he did not wholly refrain from such satire, as he afterwards thought very unjust when he was exposed to it himself; for, when he was afterwards ridiculed in the character of a distressed poet, he very easily discovered, that distress was not a proper subject for merriment, or topic of invective. He was then able to discern, that if misery be the effect of virtue, it ought to be revered; if of ill-fortune, to be pitied; and if of vice, not to be insulted; because it is perhaps itself a punishment adequate to the crime by which it was produced. And the humanity of that man can deserve no panegyric, who is capable of reproaching a criminal in the hands of the executioner.

But these reflections, though they readily occurred to him in the first and last parts of his life, were, I am afraid, for a long time forgotten; at least they were, like many other maxims, treasured up in his mind, rather for shew than use, operated very little upon his conduct, however elegantly he might sometimes explain, or however forcibly he might inculcate them.

His degradation, therefore, from the condition



which he had enjoyed with such wanton thoughtlessness, was considered by many as an occasion of triumph. Those who had before paid their court to him without success, soon returned the contempt which they had suffered; and they who had received favors from him, for of such favors as he could bestow, he was very liberal, did not always remember them. So much more certain are the effects of resentment than of gratitude: it is not only, to many, more pleasing to recollect those faults which place others below them, than those virtues by which they are themselves comparatively depressed: but it is likewise more easy to neglect, than to recompense; and though there are few who will practise a laborious virtue, there will never be wanting multitudes that will indulge in easy vice.

Savage, however, was very little disturbed at the marks of contempt which his ill-fortune brought upon him, from those whom he never esteemed, and with whom he never considered himself as levelled by any calamities. and though it was not without some uneasiness that he saw some, whose friendship he valued, change their behavior; he yet observed their coldness without much emotion; considered them as the slaves of fortune and the worshippers of prosperity, and was more inclined to despise them, than to lament himself.

It does not appear that, after the return of his wants, he found mankind equally favourable.

him, at his first appearance in the world. His story, though in reality not less melancholy, was less affecting, because it was no longer new; it therefore procured him no new friends; and those that had formerly relieved him, thought they might now consign him to others. He was now likewise considered, by many, rather as criminal, than as unhappy; for the friends of Lord Tyrconnel, and of his mother, were sufficiently industrious to publish his weaknesses, which were indeed very numerous; and nothing was forgotten, that might make him either hateful or ridiculous.

It cannot but be imagined, that such representations of his faults must make great numbers less sensible of his distress; many, who had only an opportunity to hear one part, made no scruple to propagate the account which they received; many assisted their circulation from malice or revenge; and perhaps many pretended to credit them, that they might with a better grace withdraw their regard, or withhold their assistance.

Savage, however, was not one of those who suffered himself to be injured without resistance, nor was less diligent in exposing the faults of Lord Tyrconnel, over whom he obtained at least this advantage, that he drove him first to the practice of outrage and violence; for he was so much provoked by the wit and virulence of Savage, that he came with a number of attendants, that did not hesitate in courage, to beat him at a coffee-house.

But it happened that he had left the place a few minutes; and his lordship had, without danger, the pleasure of boasting how he would have treated him. Mr. Savage went next day to repay his visit at his own house; but was prevailed on, by his domestics, to retire without insisting upon seeing him.

Lord Tyrconnel was accused by Mr. Savage of some actions, which scarcely any provocations will be thought sufficient to justify; such as seizing what he had in his lodgings, and other instances of wanton cruelty, by which he increased the distress of Savage, without any advantage to himself.

These mutual accusations were retorted on both sides, for many years, with the utmost degree of virulence and rage; and time seemed rather to augment than diminish their resentment. That the anger of Mr. Savage should be kept alive, is not strange, because he felt every day the consequences of the quarrel; but it might reasonably have been hoped, that Lord Tyrconnel might have relented, and at length have forgot those provocations, which, however they might have once inflamed him, had not in reality much hurt him.

The spirit of Mr. Savage, indeed, never suffered him to solicit a reconciliation; he returned reproach for reproach, and insult for insult; his superiority of wit supplied the disadvantages of his fortune, and enabled him to form a party, which judged great numbers in his favour.

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But though this might be some gratification of his vanity, it afforded very little relief to his necessities; and he was very frequently reduced to uncommon hardships, of which, however, he never made any mean or importunate complaints, being formed rather to bear misery with fortitude, than enjoy prosperity with moderation.

He now thought himself again at liberty to expose the cruelty of his mother; and therefore, I believe, about this time, published *The Bastard*, a poem remarkable for the vivacious sallies of thought in the beginning, where he makes a pompous enumeration of the imaginary advantages of base birth; and the pathetic sentiments at the end, where he recounts the real calamities which he suffered by the crime of his parents.

The vigor and spirit of the verses, the peculiar circumstances of the author, the novelty of the subject, and the notoriety of the story to which the allusions are made, procured this performance a very favorable reception; great numbers were immediately dispersed, and editions were multiplied with unusual rapidity.

One circumstance attended the publication, which Savage used to relate with great satisfaction. His mother, to whom the poem was with 'due reverence' inscribed, happened then to be at Bath, where she could not conveniently retire from censure, or conceal herself from observation; and no sooner did the reputation of the poem begin

to spread, than she heard it repeated in all places of concourse, nor could she enter the assembly-rooms, or cross the walks, without being saluted with some lines from *The Bastard*.

This was perhaps the first time that ~~ever~~ she discovered a sense of shame, and on this occasion the power of wit was very conspicuous; the wretch who had, without scruple, proclaimed herself an adulteress, and who had first endeavored to starve her son, then to transport him, and afterwards to hang him, was not able to bear the representation of her own conduct; but fled from reproach, though she felt no pain from guilt, and left Bath with the utmost haste, to shelter herself among the crowds of London.

Thus, Savage had the satisfaction of finding, that, though he could not reform his mother, he could punish her, and that he did not always suffer alone.

The pleasure which he received from this increase of his poetical reputation, was sufficient for some time to overbalance the miseries of want, which this performance did not much alleviate; for it was sold for a very trivial sum to a bookseller, who, though the success was so uncommon that five impressions were sold, of which many were undoubtedly very numerous, had not good sense sufficient to admit the unhappy poet to any part of the profit.

The sale of the poem was always mentioned by

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Savage, with the utmost elevation of heart, referred to by him as an incontestible proof of a general acknowledgment of his abilities. It was indeed the only production of which he could justly boast a general reception.

But though he did not lose the opportunity which success gave him, of setting a high rate on his abilities, but paid due deference to the suffrages of mankind when they were given in his favor, he did not suffer his esteem of himself to depend upon others, nor found any thing sacred in the voice of the people when they were inclined to censure him: he, then, readily shewed the folly of expecting that the public should judge right—observed how slowly poetical merit had often forced its way into the world—he contented himself with the applause of men of judgment, and was somewhat disposed to exclude all those from the character of men of judgment who did not applaud him.

But he was at other times more favorable to mankind, than to think them blind to the beauties of his works, and imputed the slowness of their sale to other causes; either they were published at a time when the town was empty, or when the attention of the public was engrossed by some struggle in the parliament, or some other object of general concern; or they were, by the neglect of the publisher, not diligently dispersed, or by his avarice not advertised with sufficient frequency. Address, or industry, or liberality, was always

wanting ; and the blame was laid rather on any person than the author.

By arts like these, arts which every man practises in some degree, and to which too much of the little tranquillity of life is to be ascribed, Savage was always able to live at peace with himself. Had he indeed only made use of these expedients to alleviate the loss or want of fortune or reputation, or any other advantages which it is not in man's power to bestow upon himself, they might have been justly mentioned as instances of a philosophical mind, and very properly proposed to the imitation of multitudes, who, for want of diverting their imaginations with the same dexterity, languish under afflictions which might be easily removed.

It were doubtless to be wished, that truth and reason were universally prevalent ; that every thing were esteemed according to its real value, and that men would secure themselves, from being disappointed, in their endeavors after happiness, by placing it only in virtue, which is always to be obtained ; but if adventitious and foreign pleasures must be pursued, it would be perhaps of some benefit, since that pursuit must frequently be fruitless, if the practice of Savage could be taught, that folly might be an antidote to folly, and one fallacy be obviated by another.

But the danger of this pleasing intoxication must not be concealed ; nor indeed can any one, after

ing observed the life of Savage, need to be cautioned against it. By imputing none of his miseries to himself, he continued to act upon the same principles, and to follow the same path; was never made wiser by his sufferings, nor preserved by one misfortune from falling into another. He proceeded throughout his life to tread the same steps on the same circle; always applauding his past conduct, or at least forgetting it, to amuse himself with phantoms of happiness, which were dancing before him; and willingly turned his eyes from the light of reason, when it would have discovered the illusion, and shewn him, what he never wished to see, his real state.

.. He is even accused, after having lulled his imagination with those ideal opiates, of having tried the same experiment upon his conscience; and, having accustomed himself to impute all deviations from the light, to foreign causes; it is certain that he was upon every occasion too easily reconciled to himself; and that he appeared very little to regret those practices which had impaired his reputation. The reigning error of his life was, that he mistook the *love* for the *practice* of virtue, and was indeed not so much a good man, as the friend of goodness.

This at least must be allowed him, that he always preserved a strong sense of the dignity, the beauty, and the necessity of virtue; and that he never contributed deliberately to spread corruption.



amongst mankind. His actions, which were generally precipitate, were often blameable; but his writings, being the productions of study, uniformly tended to the exaltation of the mind, and the propagation of morality and piety.

These writings may improve mankind, when his failings shall be forgotten; and therefore he must be considered, upon the whole, as a benefactor to the world; nor can his personal example do any hurt, since, whoever hears of his faults, will hear of the miseries which they brought upon him, and which would deserve less pity, had not his condition been such as made his faults pardonable. He may be considered as a child exposed to all the temptations of indigence, at a time when resolution was not yet strengthened by conviction, nor virtue confirmed by habit; a circumstance which in his *Bastard*, he laments in a very affecting manner:

——— No Mother's care

Shielded my infant innocence with pray'r:  
No Father's guardian-hand my youth maintain'd,  
'Call'd forth my virtues, or from vice restrain'd.

*The Bastard*, however it might provoke or mortify his mother, could not be expected to melt her to compassion, so that he was still under the same want of the necessaries of life; and he therefore exerted all the interest which his wit, or his birth, or his misfortunes could procure, to obtain, upon the death of Eusden, the place of Poet Laureat,

and prosecuted his application with so much diligence, that the King publicly declared it his intention to bestow it upon him ; but such was the fate of Savage, that even the King, when he intended his advantage, was disappointed in his schemes ; for the Lord Chamberlain, who has the disposal of the laurel, as one of the appendages of his office, either did not know the King's design, or did not approve it, or thought the nomination of the Laureat an encroachment upon his rights, and therefore bestowed the laurel upon Colley Cibber.

Mr. Savage, thus disappointed, took a resolution of applying to the Queen, that, having once given him life, she would enable him to support it, and, therefore, published a short poem on her birth-day, to which he gave the odd title of ' Volunteer Laureat.' The event of this essay he has himself related in the following letter, which he prefixed to the poem, when he afterwards reprinted it in ' The Gentleman's Magazine,' from whence I have copied it entire, as this was one of the few attempts in which Mr. Savage succeeded.

' MR. URBAN,

' In your Magazine for February, you published  
' the last ' Volunteer Laureat,' written on a very  
' melancholy occasion, the death of the royal patroness of arts and literature in general, and of  
' the author of that poem in particular ; I now

' send you the first, that Mr. Savage wrote under  
 ' that title.—This gentleman, notwithstanding a  
 ' very considerable interest, being, on the death of  
 ' Mr. Eusden, disappointed of the Laureat's place,  
 ' wrote the following verses; which were no  
 ' sooner published, but the late Queen sent to a  
 ' bookseller for them. The author had not at  
 ' that time a friend, either to get him introduced,  
 ' or his poem presented at Court; yet such was  
 ' the unspeakable goodness of that Princess, that,  
 ' —notwithstanding this act of ceremony was want-  
 ' ing,—in a few days after publication, Mr. Sa-  
 ' vage received a Bank-bill of fifty pounds, and a  
 ' gracious message from her Majesty, by the Lord  
 ' North and Guilford, to this effect: "That her  
 ' Majesty was highly pleased with the verses;  
 ' that she took particularly kind his lines there  
 ' relating to the King; that he had permission to  
 ' write annually on the same subject; and that he  
 ' should yearly receive the like present, till some-  
 ' thing better (which was her Majesty's intention)  
 ' could be done for him." After this, he was  
 ' permitted to present one of his annual poems to  
 ' her Majesty, had the honor of kissing her hand,  
 ' and met with the most gracious reception.

' Yours, &c.'

Such was the performance\*, and such its recep-  
 tion; a reception, which, though by no means

\* This poem is inserted in the late Collection.

unkind, yet was not in the highest degree generous ; to chain down the genius of a writer to an annual panegyric, shewed in the Queen too much desire of hearing her own praises, and a greater regard to herself, than to him, on ~~whom~~ her bounty was conferred. It was a kind of ~~avaricious~~ generosity, by which flattery was rather purchased, than genius rewarded.

Mrs. Oldfield had formerly given him the same allowance with much more heroic intention ; she had no other view than to enable him to prosecute his studies, and to ~~set~~ himself above the want of assistance, and was contented with doing good without stipulating for encomiums.

Mr. Savage, however, was not at liberty to make exceptions ; but was ravished with the favors which he had received, and probably yet more with those which he was promised ; he considered himself now as a favorite of the Queen, and did not doubt but a few annual poems would establish him in some profitable employment.

He therefore assumed the title of ' Volunteer Laureat,' not without some reprehensions from Cibber, who informed him, that the title of ' Laureat' was a mark of honor conferred by the King, from whom all honor is derived, and which therefore no man has a right to bestow upon himself ; and added, that he might, with equal propriety, style himself a Volunteer Lord, or Volunteer Baronet. It cannot be denied that the re-

mark was just ; but Savage did not think any title, which was conferred upon Mr. Cibber, so honorable, as that the usurpation of it, could be imputed to him as an instance of very exorbitant vanity ; and therefore continued to write under the same title, and received every year the same reward.

He did not appear to consider these encomiums as tests of his abilities,—or as any thing more, than annual hints to the Queen of her promise,—or, acts of ceremony, by the performance of which, he was entitled to his pension, and therefore did not labor them with great diligence, or print more than fifty each year ; except that, for some of the last years, he regularly inserted them in *The Gentleman's Magazine*, by which they were dispersed over the kingdom.

Of some of them, he had himself so low an opinion, that he intended to omit them in the collection of poems, for which he printed proposals, and solicited subscriptions : nor can it seem strange, that, being confined to the same subject, he should be at some times indolent, and at others unsuccessful ; that he should sometimes delay a disagreeable task, till it was too late to perform it well ; or, that he should sometimes repeat the same sentiment, on the same occasion, or at others be misled, by an attempt after novelty, to forced conceptions and far-fetched images. ‘

He wrote indeed with a double intention, which supplied him with some variety ; for his business

was to praise the Queen for the favors which he had received, and to complain to her of the delay of those which she had promised: in some of his pieces, therefore, gratitude is predominant, and in some discontent, in some, he represents himself as happy in her patronage, and in others, as disconsolate to find himself neglected.

Her promise,—like other promises made to this unfortunate man,—was never performed, though he took sufficient care that it should not be forgotten. The publication of his *Volunteer Laureat* procured him no other reward than a regular remittance of fifty pounds.

He was not so depressed by his disappointments, as to neglect any opportunity that was offered of advancing his interest. When the Princess Anne was married, he wrote a poem\* upon her departure, only, as he declared, 'because it was expected from him,' and he was not willing to bar his own prospects, by any appearance of neglect.

He never mentioned any advantage gained by this poem, or any regard that was paid to it, and therefore it is likely that it was considered at court as an act of duty, to which he was obliged by his dependence, and which it was therefore not necessary to reward by any new favor. or perhaps the Queen really intended his advancement, and, there-

fore, thought it superfluous to lavish presents upon a man, whom she intended to establish for life.

About this time, not only his hopes were in danger of being frustrated, but his pension likewise of being obstructed, by an accidental calumny. The writer of *The Daily Courant*, a paper then published under the direction of the ministry, charged him with a crime, which, though very great in itself, would have been remarkably invidious in him, and might very justly have incensed the Queen against him. He was accused by name, of influencing elections against the court, by appearing at the head of a Tory mob; nor did the accuser fail to aggravate his crime, by representing it as the effect of the most atrocious ingratitude, and a kind of rebellion against the Queen, who had first preserved him from an infamous death, and afterwards distinguished him by her favor, and supported him by her charity. The charge, as it was open and confident, was likewise by good fortune very particular. The place of the transaction was mentioned, and the whole series of the rioter's conduct related. This exactness made Mr. Savage's vindication easy; for, he never had in his life, seen the place which was declared to be the scene of his wickedness, nor ever had been present in any town when its representatives were chosen. This answer he therefore made haste to publish, with all the circumstances necessary to make it credible; and very reason-

ably demanded, that the accusation should be retracted in the same paper, that he might no longer suffer the imputation of sedition and ingratitude. This demand was likewise pressed by him, in a private letter to the author of the paper, who;—either trusting to the protection of those whose defence he had undertaken,—or having entertained some personal malice against Mr. Savage,—or fearing, lest, by retracting so confident an assertion, he should impair the credit of his paper,—refused to give him that satisfaction.

Mr. Savage, therefore, thought it necessary, to his own vindication, to prosecute him in the King's Bench ; but as he did not find any ill effects from the accusation, having sufficiently cleared his innocence, he thought any farther procedure would have the appearance of revenge ; and therefore willingly dropped it.

He saw soon afterwards a process commenced in the same court against himself, on an information, in which, he was accused of writing and publishing an obscene pamphlet.

It was always Mr. Savage's desire to be distinguished ; and, when any controversy became popular, he never wanted some reason for engaging in it with great ardor, and appearing at the head of the party which he had chosen. As he was never celebrated for his prudence, he had no sooner taken his side, and informed himself of the chief topics of the dispute, than he took all



opportunities of asserting and propagating his principles ; without much regard to his own interest, or any other visible design, than, that of drawing upon himself the attention of mankind.

The dispute between the Bishop of London and the Chancellor, is well known to have been, for some time, the chief topic of political conversation ; and therefore Mr. Savage, in pursuance of his character, endeavored to become conspicuous among the controvertists, with which every coffee-house was filled on that occasion. He was an indefatigable opposer of all the claims of ecclesiastical power, though he did not know on what they were founded ; and was therefore no friend to the Bishop of London. But he had another reason for appearing as a warm advocate for Dr. Rundle ; for *he* was the friend of Mr. Foster and Mr. Thomson, who were the friends of Mr. Savage.

Thus remote was his interest in the question, which, however, as he imagined, concerned him so nearly, that it was not sufficient to harangue and dispute, but necessary likewise to write upon it.

He therefore engaged, with great ardor, in a new poem, called, by him, *The Progress of a Divine* ; in which he conducts a profligate priest, by all the gradations of wickedness, from a poor curacy in the country, to the highest preferments of the church, and describes, with that humor

which was natural to him, and that knowledge which was extended to all the diversities of human life, his behavior in every station; and insinuates, that this priest, thus accomplished, found at last a patron in the Bishop of London.

When he was asked by one of his friends, on what pretence he could charge the Bishop with such an action? he had no more to say, than that he had only inverted the accusation, and that he thought it reasonable to believe, that he who obstructed the rise of a good man, without reason, would, for bad reasons, promote the exaltation of a villain.

The clergy were universally provoked by this satire; and Savage, who, as was his constant practice, had set his name to his performance, was censured in *The Weekly Miscellany*\* with severity, which he did not seem inclined to forget.

\* A short satire was likewise published in the same paper, in which were the following lines:

‘ For cruel murder doom’d to hempen death,  
 ‘ Savage, by royal grace, prolong’d his breath.  
 ‘ Well might you think he spent his future years  
 ‘ In prayer, and fasting, and repentant tears.  
 ‘ —But, O vain hope! —the truly Savage cries,  
 ‘ Priests, and their slavish doctrines, I despise.  
 ‘ Shall I —————  
 ‘ Who, by free-thinking, to free nations set,  
 ‘ In midnight howls a deathless name acquire’d,  
 ‘ Now stoop to learn of ecclesiastic men!  
 ‘ —No, arm’d with rhyme, at priests, I’ll take my aim,  
 ‘ Though prudence bids me murder but their fame.”

*Weekly Miscellany*

But return of invective was not thought a sufficient punishment. The Court of King's Bench was therefore moved against him, and he was obliged to return an answer to a charge of obscenity. It was urged, in his defence, that obscenity was criminal when it was intended to promote the practice of vice ; but that Mr. Savage had only introduced obscene ideas, with the view of exposing them to detestation, and of amending the age, by shewing the deformity of wickedness. This

An answer was published in *The Gentleman's Magazine*, written by an unknown hand, from which the following lines are selected :

' Transform'd by thoughtless rage, and midnight wine,  
' From malice free, and push'd without design ;  
' In equal brawls if Savage lung'd a thrust,  
' And brought the youth a victim to the dust ;  
' So strong the hand of accident appears,  
' The royal hand from guilt and vengeance clears.  
' Instead of wasting all thy future years,  
' *Savage!* in prayer and vain repentant tears ;  
' Exert thy pen to mend a vicious age,  
' To curb the priest, and sink his high-church rage ;  
' To shew what frauds the holy vestments hide,  
' The nests of avarice, lust, and pedant pride ;  
' Then change the scene, let merit brightly shine,  
' And round the patriot twist the wrath divine ;  
' The heavenly guide deliver down to fame :  
' In well-tan'd lays transmit a Foster's name ;  
' Touch every passion with harmonious art,  
' Exalt the brave, and correct the heart.  
' Trustworthy facts shall to all grace extol ;  
' Thus shall thy lines the present fame enrol.  
' ————— But grant,  
' ————— that Savage plung'd the steel,  
' And smote the youth in shining vengeance fell !  
' My soul thinks the fact the man deserves,  
' But — — — the memory of pity dreams.

*Gentleman's Magazine, May 1735. Dr. J.*

was admitted ; and Sir Philip Yorke, who then presided in that court, dismissed the information with encomiums upon the purity and excellence of Mr. Savage's writings. The prosecution however, answered in some measure the purpose of those by whom it was set on foot ; for Mr. Savage was so far intimidated by it, that, when the edition of his poem was sold, he did not venture to reprint it ; so that it was in a short time forgotten, or forgotten by all but those whom it offended.

It is said, that some endeavors were used to incense the queen against him : but he found advocates to obviate at least part of their effect ; for though he was never advanced, he still continued to receive his pension.

This poem drew more infamy upon him than any incident of his life ; and, as his conduct cannot be vindicated, it is proper to secure his memory from reproach, by informing those whom he made his enemies, that he never intended to repeat the provocation ; and that, though, whenever he thought he had any reason to complain of the clergy, he used to threaten them with a new edition of *The Progress of a Deist*, it was his calm and settled resolution to suppress it for ever.

He once intended to have made a better reparation for the folly or injustice, with which he might be charged, by writing another poem, called *The Progress of a Free-thinker*, which he intended

to lead through all the stages of vice and folly, to convert him from virtue to wickedness, and from religion to infidelity, by all the modish sophistry used for that purpose; and at last to dismiss him by his own hand into the other world.

That he did not execute this design, is a real loss to mankind, for he was too well acquainted with all the scenes of debauchery to have failed in his representations of them, and too zealous for virtue not to have represented them in such a manner as should expose them either to ridicule or detestation.

But this plan was like others, formed and laid aside, till the vigor of his imagination was spent, and the effervescence of invention had subsided; but soon gave way to some other design, which pleased by its novelty for a while, and then was neglected like the former.

He was still in his usual exigencies, having no certain support but the pension allowed him by the queen; which, though it might have kept an exact economist from want, was very far from being sufficient for Mr. Savage, who had never been accustomed to dismiss any of his appetites without the gratification which they solicited; and whom nothing, but want of money, withheld from partaking of every pleasure that fell within his view.

His conduct with regard to his pension very particular. No sooner had he change

bill, than he vanished from the sight of all his acquaintance, and lay for some time out of the reach of all the inquiries that friendship or curiosity could make after him; at length, he appeared again penniless, as before, but never informed even those whom he seemed to regard most, where he had been; nor was his retreat ever discovered.

This was his constant practice during the whole time that he received the pension from the queen: he regularly disappeared and returned. He, indeed, affirmed that he retired to study, and that the money supported him in solitude for many months; but his friends declared, that the short time in which it was spent sufficiently confused his own account of his conduct.

His politeness and his wit still raised him friends, who were desirous of setting him at length free from that indigence by which he had been hitherto oppressed; and therefore solicited Sir Robert Walpole in his favor with so much earnestness, that they obtained a promise of the next place that should become vacant, not exceeding two hundred pounds a year. This promise was made with an uncommon declaration, 'that it was not the promise of a minister to a petitioner, but of a friend to his friend.'

Mr. Savage now concluded himself set at once for ever, and, as he observes in a ~~postscript~~ on that incident of his life, trusted and was trusted;

but soon found that his confidence was ill-grounded, and this friendly promise was not inviolable. He spent a long time in solicitations, and at last despaired and desisted.

He did not indeed deny, that he had given the minister some reason to believe, that he should not strengthen his own interest by advancing him,—for he had taken care to distinguish himself in coffee-houses, as an advocate for the ministry of the last years of Queen Anne, and was always ready to justify the conduct, and exalt the character of Lord Bolingbroke, whom he mentions with great regard in an *Epistle upon Authors*, which he wrote about that time; but was too wise to publish, and of which only some fragments have appeared, inserted by him in the *Magazine*, after his retirement.

To despair was not, however, the character of Savage; when one patronage failed, he had recourse to another. The prince was now extremely popular, and had very liberally rewarded the merit of some writers whom Mr. Savage did not think superior to himself, and therefore he resolved to address a poem to him.

For this purpose he made choice of a subject, which could regard only persons of the highest rank and greatest affluence; and which was therefore proper for a poem, intended to procure the patronage of a prince; and having retired for some time to Richmond, that he might prosecute his

design in full tranquillity, without the temptations of pleasure, or the solicitations of creditors, by which his meditations were in equal danger of being disconcerted, he produced a poem, *On Public Spirit, with regard to Public Works*.

The plan of this poem is very extensive, and comprises a multitude of topics, each of which might furnish matter sufficient for a long performance, and of which some have already employed more eminent writers; but, as he was perhaps not fully acquainted with the whole extent of his own design, and was writing to obtain a supply of wants too pressing to admit of long or accurate inquiries, he passes negligently over many public works, which, even in his own opinion, deserved to be more elaborately treated.

But though he may sometimes disappoint his reader, by transient touches upon these subjects, which have often been considered, and therefore naturally raise expectations, he must be allowed amply to compensate his omissions, by expatiating, in the conclusion of his work, upon a kind of beneficence not yet celebrated by any eminent poet; though it now appears more susceptible of embellishments, more adapted to exalt the ideas, and affect the passions, than many of those which have hitherto been thought most worthy of the ornaments of verse. The settlement of colonies in uninhabited countries,—the establishment of those in security, whose misfortunes have made their own



country no longer pleasing ~~to~~ life,—the acquisition of property without injury to any,—the approbation of the waste and luxuriant bounties of nature, and the enjoyment of those gifts, which heaven has scattered upon regions uncultivated and unoccupied, cannot be considered, without giving rise to a great number of pleasing ideas, and bewildering the imagination in delightful prospects; and therefore, whatever speculations they may produce in those who have confined themselves to political studies, naturally fixed the attention, and excited the applause, of a poet. The politician, when he considers men driven into other countries for shelter, and obliged to retire to forests and deserts, and pass their lives and fix their posterity in the remotest corners of the world, to avoid those hardships which they suffer, or fear, in their native place, may very properly inquire, why the legislature does not provide a remedy for these miseries, rather than encourage an escape from them. He may conclude, that the flight of every honest man is a loss to the community; that those who are unhappy, without guilt, ought to be relieved; and the life, which is overburthened by accidental calamities, set at ease by the care of the public; and that those, who have by misconduct forfeited their claim to favor, ought rather to be made useful to the society which they have injured, than be driven from it. But the poet is employed in a more pleasing undertaking, than that of proposing laws

which, however ~~just~~ or expedient, will never be made, or endeavoring to reduce to rational schemes of government societies which were formed by chance, and are conducted by the private passions of those who preside in them. He guides the unhappy fugitive, from want and persecution, to plenty, quiet, and security, and seats him in scenes of peaceful solitude, and undisturbed repose.

Savage has not forgotten, amidst the pleasing sentiments which this prospect of retirement suggested to him, to censure those crimes, which have been generally committed by the discoverers of new regions, and to expose the enormous wickedness of making war upon barbarous nations, because they cannot resist, and of invading countries because they are fruitful; of extending navigation only to propagate vice, and of visiting distant lands only to lay them waste. He has asserted the natural equality of mankind, and endeavored to suppress that pride, which inclines men to imagine, that might is the consequence of power.

His description of the various miseries, which force men to seek for refuge in distant countries, affords another instance of his proficiency, in the important and extensive study of human life; and, the tenderness with which he recounts them, another proof of his humanity and benevolence.

It is observable, that the close of this poem, discovers a change, which experience had made in Mr. Savage's opinions. "In a poem written by him

in his youth, and published in his *Miscellanies*, he declares his contempt of the contracted views, and narrow prospects of the middle state of life,—and declares his resolution, either to tower like the cedar, or be trampled like the shrub; but in this poem, though addressed to a prince, he mentions this state of life, as comprising those, who ought most to attract reward, those who merit most the confidence of power, and the familiarity of greatness; and, accidentally mentioning this passage to one of his friends, declared, that in his opinion, all the virtue of mankind was comprehended in that state.

In describing villas and gardens, he did not omit to condemn that absurd custom, which prevails among the English,—of permitting servants to receive money from strangers, for the entertainment that they receive,—and therefore inserted in his poem these lines :

But what the flowering pride of gardens rare,  
However royal, or however fair,  
If gates, which to access should still give way,  
Ope but like Peter's paradise, for pay ?  
If perquisite'd varieties frequent stand,  
And each new walk must a new tax demand ?  
What foreign eyes but with contempt surveys ?  
What Muscovites from oblivion snatch their praise ?

But, before the publication of his performance, he recollected, that the Queen allowed her garden

and cave at Richmond to be shewn for money, and that she so openly countenanced the practice, that she had bestowed the privilege of shewing them, as a place of profit on a man, whose merit she valued herself upon rewarding, though she gave him only the liberty of disgracing his country. -

He therefore thought, with more prudence than was often exerted by him, that the publication of these lines might be officiously represented as an insult upon the Queen, to whom he owed his life and his subsistence; and that the propriety of his observation would be no security against the censures which the unseasonableness of it might draw upon him; he therefore suppressed the passage in the first edition, but after the Queen's death thought the same caution no longer necessary, and restored it to the proper place.

\* The poem was, therefore, published without any political faults, and inscribed to the Prince; but Mr. Savage, having no friend upon whom he could prevail to present it to him, had no other method of attracting his observation than the publication of frequent advertisements, and therefore received no reward from his patron, however generous on other occasions.

This disappointment he never mentioned without indignation, being, by some means or other, confident that the Prince was not ignorant of his address to him; and insinuated, that, if any advances in popularity could have been made by dis-

tinguishing him, he had not written without notice, or without reward.

He was once inclined to have presented his poem in person, and sent to the printer for a copy with that design; but either his opinion changed, or his resolution deserted him, and he continued to resent neglect, without attempting to force himself into regard.

Nor was the public much more favorable than his patron, for only seventy-two were sold, though the performance was much commended by some whose judgment in that kind of writing is generally allowed. But Savage easily reconciled himself to mankind without imputing any defect to his work, by observing that his poem was unluckily published two days after the prorogation of the parliament, and, by consequence, at a time when all those who could be expected to regard it were in the hurry of preparing for their departure, or engaged in taking leave of others upon their dismissal from public affairs.

It must be however allowed, in justification of the public, that this performance is not the most excellent of Mr. Savage's works; and that, though it cannot be denied to contain many striking sentiments, majestic lines, and just observations, it is, in general, not sufficiently polished in the language, or enlivened in the imagery, or dignified in the plan.

Thus his poem contributed nothing to the applau-

viation of his poverty, which was such, as very few could have supported with equal patience ; but to which, it must likewise be confessed, that few would have been exposed who received punctually fifty pounds a-year : a salary which, though by no means equal to the demands of vanity and luxury, is yet found sufficient to support families above want, and was undoubtedly more than the necessities of life required.

But no sooner had he received his pension, than he withdrew to his darling privacy, from which he returned in a short time to his former distress, and for some part of the year generally lived by chance, eating only when he was invited to the tables of his acquaintances, from which, the meanness of his dress, often excluded him, when the politeness and variety of his conversation would have been thought a sufficient recompence for his entertainment.

He lodged as much by accident as he dined, and passed the night sometimes in mean houses, which are set open at night to any casual wanderers ; sometimes in cellars, among the riot and filth of the meanest and most profligate of the rabble ; and sometimes, when he had not money to support even the expences of these receptacles, walked about the streets till he was weary, and lay down in the summer upon a bulk, or in the winter, with his associates in poverty, among the sales of a glass-house.

In this manner, were passed those days and those nights, which nature had enabled him to have employed in elevated speculations, useful studies, or pleasing conversation. On a bulk,—in a cellar,—or in a glass-house, among thieves and beggars,—was to be found the Author of *The Wanderer*, the man of exalted sentiments, extensive views, and curious observations; the man, whose remarks on life, might have assisted the statesman, whose ideas of virtue might have enlightened the moralist, whose eloquence might have influenced senates, and whose delicacy might have polished courts.

It cannot but be imagined, that such necessities might sometimes force him upon disreputable practices; and it is probable that these lines in *The Wanderer*, were occasioned by his reflections on his own conduct:

Though misery leads to happiness, and truth,—  
 Unequal to the load, this languid youth,  
 (O! let none censure, if, untried by grief,  
 If, amidst woe, untempted by relief,)  
 He stoop'd, reluctant, to low arts of shame,  
 Which then, ev'n then, he scorn'd, and blush'd to  
 name.

Whoever was acquainted with him, was certain to be solicited for small sums, which the frequency of the request made in time considerable, and he was therefore quickly shunned by those who were

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become familiar enough to be trusted with his necessities; but his rambling manner of life, and constant appearance at houses of public resort, always procured him a new succession of friends, whose kindness had not been exhausted by repeated requests; so that he was seldom absolutely without resources, but had in his utmost exigences this comfort, that he always imagined himself sure of speedy relief.

It was observed, that he always asked favors of this kind, without the least submission or apparent consciousness of dependence, and that he did not seem to look upon a compliance with his request, as an obligation that deserved any extraordinary acknowledgments; but a refusal was resented by him as an affront, or complained of as an injury; nor did he readily reconcile himself to those who either denied to lend, or gave him afterwards any intimation that they expected to be repaid.

He was sometimes so far compassionated by those who knew both of his merit and distresses, that they received him into their families, but they soon discovered him to be a very incommodious inmate; for, being always accustomed to an irregular manner of life, he could not confine himself to any stated hours, or pay any regard to the rules of a family, but would prolong his conversation till midnight, without considering, that business might require his friend's application in the morning; and, when he had persuaded himself to retire



to bed, was not, without equal difficulty, called up to dinner ; it was therefore impossible to pay him any distinction without the entire subversion of all œconomy, a kind of establishment which, wherever he went, he always appeared ambitious to overthrow.

It must, therefore, be acknowledged, in justification of mankind, that it was not always by the negligence or coldness of his friends that Savage was distressed, but because it was in reality very difficult to preserve him long in a state of ease. To supply him with money was a hopeless attempt ; for no sooner did he see himself master of a sum sufficient to set him free from care for a day, than he became profuse and luxurious. When once he had entered a tavern, or engaged in a scheme of pleasure, he never retired till want of money obliged him to some new expedient. If he was entertained in a family, nothing was any longer to be regarded there but amusements and jollity ; wherever Savage entered, he immediately expected that order and business should fly before him, that all should thenceforward be left to hazard, and that no dull principle of domestic management should be opposed to his inclination, or intrude upon his gaiety.

His distresses, however afflictive, never dejected him ; in his lowest state he wanted not spirit to assert the natural dignity of wit, and was always ready to repress that insolence which the super-

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only of fortune incited, and to trample on that reputation, which rose upon any other basis than that of merit: he never admitted any gross familiarities, or submitted to be treated otherwise than as an equal. Once, when he was without lodging, meat, or clothes, one of his friends, a man indeed not remarkable for moderation in his prosperity, left a message,—that he desired to see him about nine in the morning. Savage knew that his intention was to assist him; but was very much disgusted, that he should presume to prescribe the hour of his attendance, and, I believe, refused to visit him, and rejected his kindness.

The same invincible temper, whether firmness or obstinacy, appeared in his conduct to the Lord Tyrconnel, from whom he very frequently demanded, that the allowance which was once paid him should be restored; but with whom, he never appeared to entertain, for a moment, the thought of soliciting a reconciliation; and whom he treated at once, with all the haughtiness of superiority, and all the bitterness of resentment. He wrote to him, not in a style of supplication or respect, but of reproach, menace, and contempt; and appeared determined, if he ever regained his allowance, to hold it only by the right of conquest.

As many more can discover, that a man is richer, than that he is wiser than themselves, superiority of understanding is not so readily acknowledged as that of fortune; nor is that haugh-

tinues, which the consciousness of great abilities incites, borne with the same submission as the tyranny of affluence; and therefore Savage, by asserting his claim to deference and regard, and by treating those with contempt, whom better fortune animated to rebel against him, did not fail to raise a great number of enemies in the different classes of mankind. Those who thought themselves raised above him by the advantages of riches, hated him because they found no protection from the petulance of his wit. Those who were esteemed for their writings, feared him as a critic, and maligned him as a rival, and almost all the smaller wits were his professed enemies.

Among these, Mr. Miller so far indulged his resentment, as to introduce him in a farce, and direct him to be personated on the stage, in a dress like that which he then wore; a mean insult, which only insinuated, that Savage had but one coat, and which was therefore despised by him rather than relented; for though he wrote a lampoon against Miller, he never printed it: and as no other person ought to prosecute that revenge from which the person who was injured desisted, I shall not preserve what Mr. Savage suppressed; of which the publication would indeed have been a punishment too severe for so impotent an assault.

The great hardships of poverty were, to Savage, not the want of lodging or of food, but the neglect and contempt which it drew upon him. He

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complained that as his affairs grew desperate, he found his reputation for capacity visibly decline; that his opinion in questions of criticism was no longer regarded, when his coat was out of fashion; and that those, who, in the interval of his prosperity, were always encouraging him to great undertakings, by encomiums on his genius and assurances of success, now received any mention of his designs with coldness;—thought, that the subjects on which he proposed to write, were very difficult,—and were ready to inform him, that the event of a poem was uncertain,—that an author ought to employ much time in the consideration of his plan, and not presume to sit down to write in consequence of a few cursory ideas, and a superficial knowledge; difficulties were started on all sides, and he was no longer qualified for any performance but *The Volunteer Laureat*.

Yet even this kind of contempt never depressed him; for he always preserved a steady confidence in his own capacity, and believed nothing above his reach which he should at any time earnestly endeavor to attain. He formed schemes of the same kind with regard to knowledge and to fortune, and flattered himself with advances to be made in science, as with riches, to be enjoyed in some distant period of his life. For the acquisition of knowledge he was indeed far better qualified than for that of riches; for he was naturally inquisitive, and desirous of the conversation of those from

whom any information was to be obtained ; but by no means solicitous to improve those opportunities that were sometimes offered of raising his fortune ; and he was remarkably retentive of his ideas, which, when once he was in possession of, rarely forsook him ; a quality, which could never be communicated to his money.

While he was thus wearing out his life, in expectation that the Queen would some time recollect her promise, he had recourse to the usual practice of writers, and published proposals for printing his works by subscription ; to which he was encouraged, by the success of many who had not a better right to the favor of the public ; but, whatever was the reason, he did not find the world equally inclined to favor him ; and he observed, with some discontent, that, though he offered his works at half a guinea, he was able to procure but a small number, in comparison with those, who subscribed twice as much to Duck.

Nor was it without indignation, that he saw his proposals neglected by the Queen, who patronised Mr. Duck's with uncommon ardor ; and incited a competition among those who attended the court, who should most promote his interest, and who should first offer a subscription. This was a distinction to which Mr. Savage made no scruple of asserting, that his birth, his misfortune, and his genius, gave a fairer title, than could be pleaded by him on whom it was conferred.

Savage's applications were, however, not universally unsuccessful; for some of the nobility countenanced his design, encouraged his proposals, and subscribed with great liberality. He related of the Duke of Chandos particularly, that, upon receiving his proposals, he sent him ten guineas.

But the money which his subscriptions afforded him, was not less volative than that, which he received from his other schemes; whenever a subscription was paid him, he went to a tavern; and, as money so collected, is necessarily received in small sums, he never was able to send his poems to the press, but for many years continued his solicitation, and squandered whatever he obtained.

This project of printing his works was frequently renewed; and, as his proposals grew obsolete, new ones were printed with fresher dates. To form schemes for the publication, was one of his favorite amusements; nor was he ever more at ease, than when, with any friend who readily fell in with his schemes, he was adjusting the print, forming the advertisements, and regulating the dispersion of his new edition, which he really intended, some time, to publish, and which, as long as experience had shewn him the impossibility of printing the volume together, he at last determined to divide into weekly, or monthly numbers, that the profits of the first might supply the expences of the next.

Thus he spent his time in mean expedients, and

tormenting suspense, living for the greatest part, in fear of prosecutions from his creditors, and consequently, skulking in obscure parts of the town, of which he was no stranger to the remotest corners. But wherever he came, his address secured him friends, whom his necessities soon alienated; so that he had, perhaps, a more numerous acquaintance than any man ever before attained, there being scarcely any person eminent, on any account, to whom he was not known, or whose character he was not, in some degree, able to delineate.

To the acquisition of this extensive acquaintance, every circumstance of his life contributed. He excelled in the arts of conversation, and therefore willingly practised them. He had seldom any home, or even a lodging in which he could be private, and therefore, was driven into public-houses for the common conveniences of life and supports of nature. He was always ready to comply with every invitation, having no employment to withhold him, and, often, no money to provide for himself; and, by dining with one company, he never failed of obtaining an introduction into another.

Thus dissipated was his life, and thus casual his subsistence, yet did not the distraction of his views hinder him from reflection, nor the uncertainty of his condition oppress his guilt. When he had wandered about without any fortunate adventure, by which he was led into a tavern, he

sometimes retired into the fields, and was able to employ his mind in study to amuse it with pleasing imaginations; and seldom appeared to be melancholy, but when some sudden misfortune had just fallen upon him, and even then, in a few moments, he would disentangle himself from his perplexity, adopt the subject of conversation, and apply his mind wholly to the objects that others presented to it.

This life, unhappy as it may be already imagined, was yet embittered, in 1738, with new calamities. The death of the Queen deprived him of all the prospects of preferment, with which he so long entertained his imagination; and, as Sir Robert Walpole had before given him reason to believe that he never intended the performance of his promise, he was now abandoned again to fortune.

He was, however, at that time, supported by a friend; and as it was not his custom to look out for distant calamities, or to feel any other pain than that which forced itself upon his senses, he was not much afflicted at his loss; and, perhaps, comforted himself that his pension would be now continued without the annual tribute of a panegyric.

Another expectation contributed likewise to support him; he had taken a resolution to write a second tragedy upon the story of Sir Thomas Overbury, in which he preserved a few lines of his



former play, but made a total alteration of the plan, added new incidents, and introduced new characters; so that it was a new tragedy, not a revival of the former.

Many of his friends blamed him for not making choice of another subject; but, in vindication of himself, he asserted, that it was not easy to find a better; and that he thought it his interest to extinguish the memory of the first tragedy, which he could only do by writing one less defective upon the same story; by which he should entirely defeat the artifice of the booksellers, who, after the death of any author of reputation, are always industrious to swell his works, by uniting his worst productions with his best.

In the execution of his scheme, however, he proceeded but slowly, and probably only employed himself upon it when he could find no other amusement; but he pleased himself with counting the profits, and perhaps imagined, that the theatrical reputation which he was about to acquire, would be equivalent to all that he had lost by the death of his patroness.

He did not, in confidence of his approaching riches, neglect the measures proper to secure the continuance of his pension, though some of his favorites thought him culpable for omitting to write on her death; but, on how high the next year, he gave a proof of the solidity of his judgment, and the power of his genius. He knew that the track of glory had been so long bound,

that it was impossible to travel in it, without following in the footsteps of those who had gone before him, and that, therefore, it was necessary, that he might distinguish himself from the herd of encomiasts, to find out some new walk of funeral panegyric.

This difficult task he performed in such a manner, that this poem may be justly ranked among the best pieces, that the death of princes has produced. By transferring the mention of her death to her birth-day, he has formed a happy combination of topics, which any other man would have thought it very difficult to connect in one view; but which he has united in such a manner, that the relation between them appears natural, and it may be justly said, that what no other man would have thought on, it now appears scarcely possible for any man to miss.

The beauty of this peculiar combination of images, is so masterly, that it is sufficient to set this poem above censure; and therefore, it is not necessary to mention many other delicate touches which may be found in it, and, which would deservedly be admired, in any other performance.

To these proofs of his genius, may be added, from the same poem, an instance of his prudence, an excellence, for which he was not so often distinguished; he does not forget to remind the King, in the most delicate and artful manner, of continuing his pension.

\* With regard to the success of this address, he

was for some time in suspense, but was in no great degree solicitous about it ; and continued his labor upon his new tragedy with great tranquillity, till the friend who had for a considerable time supported him, removing his family to another place, took occasion to dismiss him. It then became necessary to inquire more diligently, what was determined in his affair, having reason to suspect, that no great favor was intended him, because he had not received his pension at the usual time.

It is said, that he did not take those methods of retrieving his interest, which were most likely to succeed ; and some of those, who were employed in the Exchequer, cautioned him against too much violence in his proceedings : but Mr. Savage, who seldom regulated his conduct by the advice of others, gave way to his passion, and demanded of Sir Robert Walpole, at his levee, the reason of the distinction that was made between him and the other pensioners of the Queen, with a degree of roughness, which, perhaps, determined him to withdraw what had been only delayed.

Whatever was the crime of which he was accused or suspected, and whatever influence was employed against him, he received soon after, an account that took from him all hopes of regaining his pension ; and he had now no prospect of subsistence but from his play, and he knew no way of living for the time required to finish it.

So peculiar were the misfortunes of this man ;—deprived of an estate and title by a particular

law,—exposed and abandoned by a mother,—defrauded by a mother of a fortune which his father had allotted him, he entered the world without a friend, and though his abilities forced themselves into esteem and reputation, he was never able to obtain any real advantage, and whatever prospects arose, were always intercepted as he began to approach them. The King's intentions in his favor were frustrated, his dedication to the prince, whose generosity on every other occasion was eminent, procured him no reward; Sir Robert Walpole, who valued himself upon keeping his promise to others, broke it to him without regret; and the bounty of the Queen was, after her death, withdrawn from him, and from him only.

Such were his misfortunes, which yet he bore, not only with decency, but with cheerfulness, nor was his gaiety clouded even by his last disappointments, though he was in a short time reduced to the lowest degree of distress, and often wanted both lodging and food. At this time he gave another instance of the insurmountable obstinacy of his spirit, his clothes were worn out; and he received notice, that at a coffee-house some clothes and linen were left for him: the person who sent them did not, I believe, inform him to whom he was to be obliged, that he might spare the perplexity of acknowledging the benefit; but though the offer was so far generous, it was made with some neglect of ceremony, which Mr. Savage so much resented, that he refused the present, and

declined to enter the house till the clothes that had been designed for him were taken away.

His distress was now publicly known, and his friends, therefore, thought it proper to concert some measures for his relief; and one of them wrote a letter to him, in which he expressed his concern 'for the miserable withdrawing of his 'pension;' and gave him hopes, that in a short time he should find himself supplied with a competence, 'without any dependence on those little 'creatures which we are pleased to call the Great.'

The scheme proposed for this happy and independent subsistence was, that he should retire into Wales, and receive an allowance of fifty pounds a-year, to be raised by a subscription, on which he was to live privately in a cheap place, without aspiring any more to affluence, or having any farther care of reputation.

This offer, Mr. Savage gladly accepted, though with intentions very different from those of his friends; for they proposed that he should continue an exile from London for ever, and spend all the remaining part of his life at Swansea; but he designed only to take the opportunity, which their scheme offered him, of retreating for a short time, that he might prepare his play for the stage, and his other works for the press, and then to return to London to exhibit his tragedy, and live upon the profits of his own labor.

With regard to his works, he proposed very

great improvements, which would have required much time, or great application; and when he had finished them, he designed to do justice to his subscribers, by publishing them according to his proposals.

As he was ready to entertain himself with future pleasures, he had planned out a scheme of life for the country, of which he had no knowledge but from pastorals and songs. He imagined that he should be transported to scenes of flowery felicity, like those which one poet has reflected to another; and had projected a perpetual round of innocent pleasures, of which he suspected no interruption from pride, or ignorance, or brutality.

With these expectations he was so enchanted, that when he was once gently reproached by a friend for submitting to live upon a subscription, and advised rather by a resolute exertion of his abilities, to support himself, he could not bear to debar himself from the happiness which was to be found in the calm of a cottage, or lose the opportunity of listening, without intermission, to the melody of the nightingale, which he believed was to be heard from every bramble, and which he did not fail to mention, as a very important part of the happiness of a country life.

While this scheme was ripening, his friends directed him to take a lodging in the liberties of the Fleet, that he might be secure from his creditors, and sent him every Monday a guinea, which

he commonly spent before the next morning, and trusted, after his usual manner, the remaining part of the week to the bounty of fortune.

He now began very sensibly to feel the miseries of dependence. Those by whom he was to be supported, began to prescribe to him with an air of authority, which he knew not how decently to resent, nor patiently to bear; and he soon discovered, from the conduct of most of his subscribers, that he was yet in the hands of 'little creatures.'

Of the insolence that he was obliged to suffer, he gave many instances, of which none appeared to raise his indignation to a greater height, than the method which was taken of furnishing him with clothes. Instead of consulting him, and allowing him to send a tailor his orders, for what they thought proper to allow him, they proposed to send for a tailor to take his measure, and then to consult how they should equip him.

This treatment was not very delicate, nor was it such as Savage's humanity would have suggested to him on a like occasion; but it had scarcely deserved mention, had it not, by affecting him to an uncommon degree, shewn the peculiarity of his character. Upon hearing the design that was formed, he came to the lodging of a friend with the most violent agonies of rage; and, being asked what it could be that gave him such disturbance, he replied with the utmost vehemence of indignant

son, 'That they had sent for a tailor to measure him.'

How the affair ended was never inquired, for fear of renewing his uneasiness. It is probable that, upon recollection, he submitted with a good grace to what he could not avoid, and that he discovered no resentment where he had no power.

He was, however, not humbled to implicit and universal compliance; for when the gentleman, who had first informed him of the design to support him by a subscription, attempted to procure a reconciliation with the Lord Tyrconnel, he could by no means be prevailed upon to comply with the measures that were proposed.

A letter was written for him to Sir William Lemon, to prevail upon him to interpose his good offices with Lord Tyrconnel, in which he solicited Sir William's assistance 'for a man who really needed it as much, as any man could well do;' and informed him, that he was retiring 'for ever to a place where he should no more trouble his relations, friends, or enemies;' he confessed, that his passion had betrayed him to some conduct with regard to Lord Tyrconnel, for which he could not but heartily ask his pardon; and as he imagined Lord Tyrconnel's passion might be yet so high, that he would not 'receive a letter from him,' begged that Sir William would endeavor



to soften him, and expressed his hopes that he would comply with his request, and that 'a small relation would not harden his heart against him.'

That any man should presume to dictate a letter to him, was not very agreeable to Mr. Savage; and therefore he was, before he had opened it, not much inclined to approve it. But when he read it, he found it contained sentiments entirely opposite to his own, and, as he asserted, to the truth; and therefore, instead of copying it, wrote his friend a letter full of masculine resentment and warm expostulations. He very justly observed, that the style was too supplicatory, and the representation too abject, and that he ought at least to have made him complain with 'the dignity of a gentleman in distress.' He declared that he would not write the paragraph in which he was to ask Lord Tyrconnel's pardon; for, 'he despised his pardon, and therefore could not heartily, and would not hypocritically, ask it.' He remarked that his friend made a very unreasonable distinction between himself and him; for, says he, 'when you mention men of high rank in your own character,' they are 'those little creatures, whom we are pleased to call the great;' but when you address them 'in mine,' no servility is sufficiently humble. He then with great propriety explained the all consequences which might be expected from such a letter, which his relations

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ould print in their own defence, and which could for ever be produced as a full answer to all that he should allege against them; for he always intended to publish a minute account of the treatment which he had received. It is to be remembered, to the honor of the gentleman by whom this letter was drawn up, that he yielded to Mr. Savage's reasons, and agreed that it ought to be suppressed.

After many alterations and delays, a subscription was at length raised, which did not amount to fifty pounds a year, though twenty were paid by one gentleman†; such was the generosity of mankind, that what had been done by a player without solicitation, could not now be effected by application and interest; and Savage had a great number to court, and to obey, for a pension less than that which Mrs. Oldfield paid him, without exacting any servilities.

Mr. Savage, however, was satisfied, and willing to retire, and was convinced that the allowance, though scanty, would be more than sufficient for him, being now determined to commence a rigid economist, and to live according to the exact rules of frugality; for nothing was in his opinion more contemptible than a man, who, when he knew his income, exceeded it; and yet he confessed, that instances of such folly were too common, and la-

mented that some men were not to be trusted with their own money.

Full of these salutary resolutions, he left London in July 1739, having taken leave with much tenderness of his friends, and parted from the author of this narrative with tears in his eyes. He was furnished with fifteen guineas, and informed, that they would be sufficient, not only for the expence of his journey, but for his support in Wales for some time; and that there remained but little more of the first collection. He promised a strict adherence to his maxims of parsimony, and went away in the stage-coach; nor did his friends expect to hear from him, till he informed them of his arrival in Swansea.

But when they least expected, arrived a letter dated the fourteenth day after his departure, in which he sent them word, that he was yet upon the road, and without money; and that he therefore could not proceed without a remittance. They then sent him the money that was in their hands, with which he was enabled to reach Bristol, from whence he was to go to Swansea by water.

At Bristol he found an embargo laid upon the shipping, so that he could not immediately obtain a passage; and being therefore obliged to stay there some time, he with his usual felicity negotiated himself with many of the principal inhabitants, was invited to their houses, distinguished at

new public house, and treated with a regard that satisfied his vanity, and therefore easily engaged his affection.

\* He began very early after his retirement to complain of the conduct of his friends in London, and irritated many of them so much by his letters, that they withdrew, however honourably, their contributions; and it is believed, that little more was paid him than the twenty pounds a year, which were allowed him by the gentleman who proposed the subscription.

After some stay at Bristol he retired to Swansea, the place originally proposed for his residence, where he lived about a year, very much dissatisfied with the diminution of his salary; but contracted, as in other places, acquaintance with those who were most distinguished in that country, among whom he has celebrated Mr. Powel and Mrs. Jones, by some verses which he inserted in *The Gentleman's Magazine*.

Here he completed his tragedy, of which two acts were wanting when he left London; and was desirous of coming to town, to bring it upon the stage. This design was very warmly opposed; and he was advised, by his chief benefactor, to put it into the hands of Mr. Thomson and Mr. Mallet, that it might be fitted for the stage, and to allow his friends to receive the profits, out of which an annual pension should be paid him.

This proposal he rejected with the utmost con-

tempt. "He was by no means convinced that the judgment of those to whom he was required to submit, was superior to his own. He was now determined, as he expressed it, to be 'no longer kept in leading-strings,' and had no elevated idea of 'his bounty, who proposed to pension him out of the profits of his own labors.'

He attempted in Wales to promote a subscription for his works, and had once hopes of success; but in a short time afterwards formed a resolution of leaving that part of the country, to which he thought it not reasonable to be confined for the gratification of those, who, having promised him a liberal income, had no sooner banished him to a remote corner, than they reduced his allowance to a salary scarcely equal to the necessities of life.

His resentment of this treatment, which, in his own opinion at least, he had not deserved, was such, that he broke off all correspondence with most of his contributors, and appeared to consider them as persecutors and oppressors; and in the latter part of his life declared that their conduct toward him since his departure from London, 'had been perfidy improving on perfidy; and inhumanity on inhumanity.'

It is not to be supposed, that the necessities of Mr. Savage did not sometimes incite him to satirical exaggerations of the behavior of those by whom he thought himself reduced to them. But it must be granted, that the diminution of his al-

lowance was a great hardship, and that those who withdrew their subscription from a man, who, upon the faith of their promise, had gone into a kind of banishment, and abandoned all those by whom he had been before relieved in his distresses, will find it no easy task to vindicate their conduct.

It may be alleged, and perhaps justly, that he was petulant and contemptuous; that he more frequently reproached his subscribers for not giving him more, than thanked them for what he received; but it is to be remembered, that his conduct, and this is the worst charge that can be drawn up against him, did them no real injury; and that it therefore ought rather to have been pitied than resented; at least the resentment it might provoke ought to have been *generous* and *manly*; epithets, which his conduct will hardly deserve, that starves the man whom he has persuaded to put himself into his power.

It might have been reasonably demanded by Savage, that they should, before they had taken away what they promised, have replaced him in his former state; that they should have taken no advantages from the situation to which the appearance of their kindness had reduced him; and that he should have been recalled to London before he was abandoned. He might justly represent, that he ought to have been considered as a lion in the toils, and demand to be released before the dogs should be loosed upon him.

He endeavored, indeed, to release himself, and with an intent to return to London, went to Bristol, where a repetition of the kindness which he had formerly found, invited him to stay. He was not only caressed and treated, but had a collection made for him of about thirty pounds, with which it had been happy if he had immediately departed for London; but his negligence did not suffer him to consider, that such proofs of kindness were not often to be expected, and that this ardor of benevolence was in a great degree the effect of novelty, and might, probably, be every day less; and therefore he took no care to improve the happy time, but was encouraged by one favor to hope for another, till at length generosity was exhausted, and officiousness wearied.

Another part of his misconduct was the practice of prolonging his visits to unseasonable hours, and disconcerting all the families into which he was admitted. This was an error in a place of commerce, which all the charms of his conversation could not compensate; for what trader would purchase such airy satisfaction by the loss of solid gain, which must be the consequence of midnight merriment, as those hours which were gained at night were generally lost in the morning?

Thus Mr. Savage, after the curiosity of the inhabitants was gratified, found the number of his friends daily decreasing, perhaps without suspecting for what reason their conduct was altered; for he

still continued to harass, with his nocturnal intrusions, those that yet countenanced him, and admitted him to their houses.

But he did not spend all the time of his residence at Bristol in visits or at taverns, for he sometimes returned to his studies, and began several considerable designs. When he felt an inclination to write, he always retired from the knowledge of his friends, and lay hid in an obscure part of the suburbs, till he found himself again desirous of company, to which it is likely that intervals of absence made him more welcome.

He was always full of his design of returning to London, to bring his tragedy upon the stage; but having neglected to depart with the money that was raised for him, he could not afterwards procure a sum sufficient to defray the expences of his journey: nor perhaps would a fresh supply have had any other effect than, by putting immediate pleasures into his power, to have driven the thoughts of his journey out of his mind.

While he was thus spending the day in contriving a scheme for the morrow, distress stole upon him by imperceptible degrees. His conduct had already wearied some of those who were at first enamored of his conversation; but he might, perhaps, still have devolved to others, whom he might have entertained with equal success, had not the decay of his clothes made it no longer consistent with their vanity to admit him to their tables, or



to associate with him in public places. He now began to find every man from home at whose house he called ; and was therefore no longer able to procure the necessaries of life, but wandered about the town, slighted and neglected, in quest of a dinner, which he did not always obtain.

To complete his misery, he was pursued by the officers for small debts which he had contracted ; and was therefore obliged to withdraw from the small number of friends from whom he had still reason to hope for assistance. His custom was to lie in bed the greatest part of the day, and to go out in the dark with the utmost privacy, and after having paid his visit, return before morning to his lodging, which was in the garret of an obscure inn.

Being thus excluded on one hand, and confined on the other, he suffered the utmost extremities of poverty, and often fasted so long, that he was seized with faintness, and had lost his appetite, not being able to bear the smell of meat, till the action of his stomach was restored by a cordial.

In this distress, he received a remittance of five pounds from London, with which he procured himself a decent coat, and determined to go to London, but unhappily spent his money at a favorite tavern. Thus was he again confined to Bristol, where he was every day hunted by bailiffs. In this exigence he once more found a friend, who sheltered him in his house, though at the usual in-

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inconveniences with which his company was attended, for he could neither be persuaded to go to bed in the night, nor to rise in the day.

It is observable, that in these various scenes of misery, he was always disengaged and cheerful: he at some times pursued his studies, and at others continued or enlarged his epistolary correspondence; nor was he ever so far dejected as to endeavor to procure an increase of his allowance by any other methods than accusations and reproaches.

He had now no longer any hopes of assistance from his friends at Bristol, who as merchants, and by consequence sufficiently studious of profit, cannot be supposed to have looked with much compassion upon negligence and extravagance, or to think any excellence equivalent to a fault of such consequence as neglect of economy. It is natural to imagine, that many of those, who would have relieved his real wants, were discouraged from the exertion of their benevolence by observation of the use which was made of their favors, and conviction that relief would only be momentary, and that the same necessity would quickly return.

At last he quitted the house of his friend, and returned to his lodging at the inn, still intending to set out in a few days for London; but on the 10th of January 1742-3, having been at supper with two of his friends, he was at his return to his lodgings arrested for a debt of about eight pounds,

which he owed at a coffee-house, and conducted to the house of a sheriff's officer. The account which he gives of this misfortune, in a letter to one of the gentlemen with whom he had supped, is too remarkable to be omitted.

'It was not a little unfortunate for me, that I spent yesterday's evening with you; because the hour hindered me from entering on my new lodging; however, I have now got one, but such an one as I believe nobody would chuse.

'I was arrested at the suit of Mrs. Read, just as I was going up stairs to bed, at Mr. Bowyer's; but taken in so private a manner, that I believe nobody at the White Lion is apprised of it; though I let the officers know the strength (or rather weakness) of my pocket, yet they treated me with the utmost civility; and even when they conducted me to confinement, it was in such a manner, that I verily believe I could have escaped, which I would rather be ruined than have done, notwithstanding the whole amount of my finances was but three pence halfpenny.

'In the first place I must insist, that you will industriously conceal this from Mrs. S—, because I would not have her good-nature suffer that pain, which I know, she would be apt to feel on this occasion.

'Next, I conjure you, dear Sir, by all the ties of friendship, by no means to have one uneasy thought on my account; but to have the same

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country of countenance, and unruffled serenity of mind, which (GOD be praised!) I have in this, and have had in a much severer calamity. Furthermore, I charge you, if you value my friendship as truly as I do yours, not to utter, or even harbor, the least resentment against Mrs. Read. I believe she has ruined me, but I freely forgive her; and (though I will never more have any intimacy with her) I would, at a due distance, rather do her an act of good, than ill will. Lastly, (pardon the expression), I absolutely command you not to offer me any pecuniary assistance, nor to attempt getting me any from any one of your friends. At another time, or on any other occasion, you may, dear friend, be well assured, I would rather write to you in the submissive style of a request, than that of a peremptory command.

However, that my truly valuable friend may not think I am too proud to ask a favor, let me intreat you to let me have your boy to attend me for this day, not only for the sake of saving me the expence of porters, but for the delivery of some letters to people whose names I would not have known to strangers.

The civil treatment I have thus far met from those whose prisoner I am, makes me thankful to the ALMIGHTY, that though he has thought fit to visit me (on my birth-night) with affliction, yet (such is his great goodness!) my affliction is

‘not without alleviating circumstances... I must  
 ‘murmur not; but am, with resignation to the divine  
 ‘will. As to the world, I hope that I shall be  
 ‘endued by Heaven with that presence of mind,  
 ‘that serene dignity in misfortune, that constitutes  
 ‘the character of a true nobleman; a dignity far  
 ‘beyond that of coronets; a nobility arising from  
 ‘the just principles of philosophy, refined and ex-  
 ‘alted by those of christianity.’

He continued five days at the officer’s, in hopes  
 that he should be able to procure bail, and avoid  
 the necessity of going to prison. The state in  
 which he passed his time, and the treatment which  
 he received, are very justly expressed by him in a  
 letter which he wrote to a friend: ‘The whole  
 day,’ says he, ‘has been employed in various peo-  
 ‘ple’s filling my head with their foolish chimeri-  
 ‘cal systems, which has obliged me ~~constantly~~ (as far  
 ‘as nature will admit) to digest, and accommodate  
 ‘myself to every different person’s way of think-  
 ‘ing; hurried from one wild system to another,  
 ‘till it has quite made a chaos of my imagination,  
 ‘and nothing done—promised—disappointed—  
 ‘ordered to send, every hour, from one part of the  
 ‘town to the other.’

When his friends, who had hitherto caressed and  
 applauded, found that to give bail and pay the debt  
 was the same, they all refused to procure him  
 from a prison at the expence of eight pounds; and  
 therefore, after having been some time at the offi-

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col<sup>d</sup> ~~him~~ <sup>himself</sup>, 'at an immense expence,' as he observes in his letter, he was at length removed to Newgate.

This expence he was enabled to support by the generosity of Mr. Nash at Bath, who, upon receiving from him an account of his condition, immediately sent him five guineas, and promised to promote his subscription at Bath with all his interest.

By his removal to Newgate, he obtained at least a freedom from suspense, and rest from the disturbing vicissitudes of hope and disappointment; he now found that his friends were only companions, who were willing to share his gaiety, but not to partake of his misfortunes; and therefore he no longer expected any assistance from them.

It must, however, be observed of one gentleman, that he offered to release him by paying the debt; but that Mr. Savage would not consent, I suppose because he thought he had before been too burthensome to him.

He was offered by some of his friends, that a collection should be made for his enlargement; but he 'treated the proposal,' and declared† 'he should again, treat it with disdain. As to writing any mendicant letters, he had too high a spirit, and determined only to write to some ministers of state, to try to regain his pension.'

He continued to complain‡ of those that had

† In a letter after his confinement. Dr. J.

‡ Letter, Jan. 1740.

sent him into the country, and objected to them; that he had 'lost the profits of his play, which ' had been finished three years;' and in another letter declares his resolution to publish a pamphlet, that the world might know how he had been 'used.'

This pamphlet was never written; for he in a very short time recovered his usual tranquillity, and cheerfully applied himself to more inoffensive studies. He indeed steadily declared, that he was promised a yearly allowance of fifty pounds, and never received half the sum; but he seemed to resign himself to that as well as to other misfortunes, and lose the remembrance of it in his amusements and employments.

The cheerfulness with which he bore his confinement appears from the following letter, which he wrote, January the 30th, to one of his friends in London.

'I now write to you from my confinement in Newgate, where I have been ever since Monday last was se'night, and where I enjoy myself with much more tranquillity than I have known for upwards of a twelvemonth past; having a room entirely to myself, and pursuing the amusement of my poetical studies, uninterrupted, and agreeable to my mind. I thank the ALMIGHTY; I am now all collected in myself; and, though my person is in confinement, my mind can expatiate on ample and useful subjects with all the free-

'dom imaginable. I am now more conversant with the Nine than ever, and if, instead of a Newgate-bird, I may be allowed to be a bird of the Musca, I assure you, Sir, I sing very freely in my cage; sometimes, indeed, in the plaintive notes of the nightingale; But at others, in the cheerful strains of the lark.'

In another letter he observes, that he ranges from one subject to another, without confining himself to any particular task; and that he was employed one week upon one attempt, and the next upon another.

Surely the fortitude of this man deserves, at least, to be mentioned with applause; and, whatever faults may be imputed to him, the virtue of suffering well, cannot be denied him. The two powers which, in the opinion of Epictetus, constituted a wise man, are those of bearing and forbearing, which it cannot indeed be affirmed to have been equally possessed by Savage; and indeed the want of one obliged him very frequently to practise the other.

He was treated by Mr. Dagge, the keeper of the prison, with great humanity; was supported by him at his own table, without any certainty of recompence; had a room to himself, to which he could at any time retire from all disturbance; was allowed to stand at the door of the prison, and sometimes taken out into the fields\*; so that he

\* See this confirmed, Gent. Mag. vol. lviil. 1140. N.



suffered fewer hardships in the prison, than he had been accustomed to undergo in the greatest part of his life.

The keeper did not confine his benevolence to the gentle execution of his office, but made some overtures to the creditor for his release, though without effect; and continued, during the whole time of his imprisonment, to treat him with the utmost tenderness and civility.

Virtue is undoubtedly most laudable in the state which makes it most difficult; and therefore the humanity of a gaoler certainly deserves this public attestation; and the man, whose heart has not been hardened by such an employment, may be justly proposed as a pattern of benevolence. If an inscription were once engraved \* to the honest toll-gatherer, less honors ought not to be paid to the tender gaoler.\*

Mr. Savage very frequently received visits, and sometimes presents, from his acquaintances; but they did not amount to a subsistence, for the greater part of which he was indebted to the generosity of this keeper; but these favors, however they might endear to him the particular persons from whom he received them, were very far from impressing upon his mind any advantageous ideas of the people of Bristol, and therefore he thought he could not more properly employ himself in prison, than in writing a poem called \* London and Bristol delineated\*.\*

\* The Author proposed this title to that of \* London and

When he had brought this poem to its present state, which, without considering the chasm, is not perfect, he wrote to London an account of his design, and informed his friend\*, that he was determined to print it with his name; but enjoined him not to communicate his intention to his Bristol acquaintance. The gentleman, surprised at his resolution, endeavored to dissuade him from publishing it, at least from prefixing his name; and declared, that he could not reconcile the injunction of secrecy with his resolution to own it at its first appearance. To this Mr. Savage returned an answer agreeable to his character, in the following terms :

‘ I received your’s this morning ; and not without a little surprise at the contents. To answer a question with a question, you ask me concerning London and Bristol, Why will I add *dedicated* ? Why did Mr. Woolston add the same word to his RELIGION OF NATURE ? I suppose, that it was his will and pleasure to add it in his case ; and it is mine, to do so in my own. You are pleased to tell me, that you understand not why secrecy is enjoined, and yet I intend to set my name to it. My answer is—I have my private reasons, which I am not obliged to explain to any one. You doubt my friend

\* Bristol compared ; which, when he began the piece, intended to prefix to it. Dr. J.

\* This friend was Mr. Cave the printer. N.

' Mr. S——† would not approve of it—And  
 ' what is it to me whether he does or not? Do  
 ' you imagine that Mr. S—— is to dictate to me?  
 ' If any man who calls himself my friend should  
 ' assume such an air, I would spurn at his friend-  
 ' ship with contempt. You say, I seem to think  
 ' so by not letting him know it—And suppose I  
 ' do, what then? \*Perhaps I can give reasons for  
 ' that disapprobation, very foreign from what you  
 ' would imagine. You go on in saying, Suppose  
 ' I should not put my name to it—My answer is,  
 ' that I will not suppose any such thing, being de-  
 ' termined to the contrary: neither, Sir, would I  
 ' have you suppose, that I applied to you for want  
 ' of another press; nor would I have you ima-  
 ' gine, that I owe Mr. S—— obligations which I  
 ' do not.'

Such was his imprudence, and such his obstinate  
 adherence to his own resolutions, however absurd!†  
 A prisoner! supported by charity! and, whatever  
 insults he might have received during the latter  
 part of his stay at Bristol, once caressed, esteemed;  
 and presented with a liberal collection, he could  
 forget on a sudden his danger and his obligations,  
 to gratify the petulance of his wit, or the eager-  
 ness of his resentment, and publish a satire, by  
 which he might reasonably expect that he should  
 alienate those who then supported him, and pro-

† Mr. Strong, of the Post-office. H.

those whom he could neither resist nor at-

his resolution, from the execution of which it was probable that only his death could have hindered him. It was sufficient to shew, how much he disregarded all considerations that opposed his present passions, and how readily he hazarded all future advantages for any immediate gratifications. Whatever was his predominant inclination, neither hope nor fear hindered him from complying with it; nor had opposition any other effect than to heighten his ardor, and irritate his vehemence.

This performance was however laid aside, while he was employed in soliciting assistance from several great persons; and one interruption succeeding another, hindered him from supplying the chasm, and perhaps from retouching the other parts, which he can hardly be imagined to have finished by his own opinion; for it is very unequal, and some of the lines are rather inserted to rhyme to others, than to support or improve the sense; but the first and last parts are worked up with great spirit and elegance.

His time was spent in the prison for the most part in study, or in receiving visits; but sometimes he descended to lower amusements, and diverted himself in the kitchen with the conversation of the criminals; for it was not pleasing to him to be much without company; and though he was very capable of a judicious choice, he was often con-

vented with the first that offered; for this he was sometimes reproved by his friends, who found him surrounded with felons: but the reproof was on that, as on other occasions, thrown away; he continued to gratify himself, and to set very little value on the opinion of others.

But here, as in every other scene of his life, he made use of such other opportunities as occurred, of benefiting those who were more miserable than himself, and was always ready to perform any office of humanity to his fellow-prisoners.

He had now ceased from corresponding with any of his subscribers except one, who yet continued to remit him the twenty pounds a-year which he had promised him, and by whom it was expected that he would have been in a very short time enlarged, because he had directed the keeper to inquire after the state of his debts.

However, he took care to enter his name according to the forms of the court †, that the creditor might be obliged to make him some allowance, if he was continued a prisoner, and, when on that occasion he appeared in the hall, was treated with very unusual respect.

But the resentment of the city was afterwards raised by some accounts that had been spread of the satire; and he was informed that some of the merchants intended to pay the allowance which the

† See Gent. Mag. vol. lvi. p. 1040.

may require, and to detain him a prisoner at their expense. This he treated as an empty menace, and perhaps might have hastened the publication, only to shew how much he was superior to their insults, had not all his schemes been suddenly destroyed.

When he had been six months in prison, he received from one of his friends †, in whose kindness he had the greatest confidence, and on whose assistance he chiefly depended, a letter, that contained a charge of very atrocious ingratitude, drawn up in such terms as sudden resentment dictated. Henley, in one of his advertisements, had mentioned 'Pope's treatment of Savage.' This was supposed by Pope to be the consequence of a complaint made by Savage to Henley, and was therefore mentioned by him with much resentment. Mr. Savage returned a very solemn protestation of his innocence, but however appeared much disturbed at the accusation. Some days afterwards he was seized with a pain in his back and side, which, as it was not violent, was not suspected to be dangerous; but growing daily more languid and dejected, on the 25th of July he confined himself to his room, and a fever seized his spirits. The symptoms grew every day more formidable, but his condition did not enable him

† Mr. Pope. See some extracts of letters from this gentleman to and concerning Mr. Savage, in Ruffhead's Life of Pope, p. 502. A.

to procure any assistance. The last time that the keeper saw him was on July the 31st, 1743; when Savage, seeing him at his bed-side, said with an uncommon earnestness, 'I have something to say to you, Sir;' but, after a pause, moved his hand in a melancholy manner; and, finding himself unable to recollect what he was going to communicate, said, 'Tis gone!' The keeper soon after left him; and the next morning he died. He was buried in the church-yard of St. Peter, at the expence of the keeper.

Such were the life and death of Richard Savage, a man equally distinguished by his virtues and vices; and at once remarkable for his weaknesses and abilities.

He was of a middle stature, of a thin habit of body, a long visage, coarse features, and melancholy aspect; of a grave and manly deportment, a solemn dignity of mien, but which, upon a nearer acquaintance, softened into an engaging easiness of manners. His walk was slow, and his voice tremulous and mournful. He was easily excited to smiles, but very seldom provoked to laughter.

His mind was in an uncommon degree vigorous and active. His judgment was accurate, his apprehension quick, and his memory so tenacious, that he was frequently observed to know what he had learned from others in a short time, better than those by whom he was informed; and could frequently recollect incidents, with all their com-



## LIFE OF SAVAGE.

bination of circumstances, which few would have regarded at the present time, but which the quickness of his apprehension impressed upon him. He had the art of escaping from his own reflections, and accommodating himself to every new scene.

To this quality is to be imputed the extent of his knowledge, compared with the small time which he spent in visible endeavors to acquire it. He mingled in cursory conversation with the same steadiness of attention as others apply to a lecture; and amidst the appearance of thoughtless gaiety, lost no new idea that was started, nor any hint that could be improved. He had therefore made in coffee-houses the same proficiency as others in their closets; and it is remarkable, that the writings of a man of little education and little reading, have an air of learning, scarcely to be found in any other performances, but which perhaps as often obscures as embellishes them.

“His judgment was eminently exact both with regard to writings and to men. The knowledge of life was indeed his chief attainment; and it is not without some satisfaction, that I can produce the suffrage of Savage in favor of human nature, of which he never appeared to entertain such odious ideas as some, who perhaps had neither his judgment nor experience, have published, either in ostentation of their sagacity, vindication of their crimes; or gratification of their malice.



His method of life particularly qualified him for conversation, of which he knew how to practise all the graces. He was never vehement or loud, but at once modest and easy, open and respectful; his language was vivacious or elegant, and equally happy upon grave and humorous subjects. He was generally censured for not knowing when to retire; but that was not the defect of his judgment, but of his fortune: when he left his company, he was frequently to spend the remaining part of the night in the street, or at least was abandoned to gloomy reflections, which it is not strange that he delayed as long as he could; and sometimes forgot that he gave others pain to avoid it himself.

It cannot be said that he made use of his abilities for the direction of his own conduct; an irregular and dissipated manner of life had made him the slave of every passion that happened to be excited by the presence of its object, and that slavery, to his passions reciprocally produced a life irregular and dissipated. He was not master of his own motions, nor could promise any thing for the next day.

With regard to his economy, nothing can be added to the relation of his life. He appeared to think himself born to be supported by others, and dispensed from all necessity of providing for himself; he therefore never prosecuted any scheme of advantage, nor endeavored even to secure the pro-

fits which his writings might have afforded him. His temper was, in consequence of the dominion of his passions, uncertain and capricious; he was easily engaged, and easily disgusted; but he is accused of retaining his hatred more tenaciously than his benevolence.

He was compassionate both by nature and principle, and always ready to perform offices of humanity; but when he was provoked (and very small offences were sufficient to provoke him), he would prosecute his revenge with the utmost acrimony till his passion had subsided.

His friendship was therefore of little value; for though he was zealous in the support or vindication of those whom he loved, yet it was always dangerous to trust him, because he considered himself discharged by the first quarrel from all ties of honor or gratitude; and would betray those secrets which in the warmth of confidence had been imparted to him. This practice drew upon him an universal accusation of ingratitude: nor can it be denied that he was ready to set himself free from the load of an obligation; for he could not bear to conceive himself in a state of dependence, his pride being equally powerful with his other passions, and appearing in the form of insolence at one time, and of vanity at another. Vanity, the most innocent species of pride, was most frequently predominant: he could not easily ~~leave~~ off, when he had once begun to mention himself or

his works ; nor ever read his verses without stealing his eyes from the page, to discover in the faces of his audience, how they were affected with any favorite passage.

A kinder name than that of vanity ought to be given to the delicacy with which he was always careful to separate his own merit from every other man's, and to reject that praise to which he had no claim. He did not forget, in mentioning his performances, to mark every line that had been suggested or amended ; and was so accurate, as to relate that he owed *three words* in ' *The Wanderer*' to the advice of his friends.

His veracity was questioned, but with little reason ; his accounts, though not indeed always the same, were generally consistent. When he loved any man, he suppressed all his faults ; and, when he had been offended by him, concealed all his virtues : but his characters were generally true, so far as he proceeded ; though it cannot be denied, that his partiality might have sometimes the effect of falshood.

In cases indifferent, he was zealous for virtue, truth, and justice : he knew very well the necessity of goodness to the present and future happiness of mankind ; nor is there perhaps any writer, who has less endeavored to please, by flattering the appetites, or perverting the judgment.

As an author, therefore, and he now ceases to influence mankind in any other character, if one

piece which he had resolved to suppress be excepted, he has very little to fear from the strictest moral or religious censure. And though he may not be altogether secure against the objections of the critic, it must however be acknowledged, that his works are the productions of a genius truly poetical; and, what many writers who have been more lavishly applauded cannot boast, that they have an original air, which has no resemblance of any foregoing writer, that the versification and sentiments have a cast peculiar to themselves, which no man can imitate with success, because what was nature in Savage, would in another be affectation. It must be confessed, that his descriptions are striking, his images animated, his fictions justly imagined, and his allegories artfully pursued; that his diction is elevated, though sometimes forced, and his number sonorous and majestic, though frequently sluggish and encumbered. Of his style, the general fault is harshness, and its general excellence is dignity; of his sentiments, the prevailing beauty is simplicity, and uniformity the prevailing defect.

For his life, or for his writings, none, who candidly consider his fortune, will think an apology either necessary or difficult. If he was not always sufficiently instructed in his subject, his knowledge was at least greater than could have been maintained by others in the same state. If his works were sometimes unfinished, accuracy cannot rea-

sonably be exacted from a man oppressed with want, which he has no hope of relieving but by a speedy publication. The insolence and resentment of which he is accused were not easily to be avoided by a great mind, irritated by perpetual hardships, and constrained hourly to return the spurns of contempt, and repress the insolence of prosperity; and vanity surely may be readily pardoned in him, to whom life afforded no other comforts than barren praises, and the consciousness of deserving them.

Those are no proper judges of his conduct, who have slumbered away their time on the down of plenty; nor will any wise man easily presume to say, 'Had I been in Savage's condition, I should have lived or written better than Savage.'

This relation will not be wholly without its use, if those, who languish under any part of his sufferings, shall be enabled to fortify their patience, by reflecting that they feel only those afflictions from which the abilities of Savage did not exempt him; or those, who, in confidence of superior capacities or attainments, disregard the common maxims of life, shall be reminded, that nothing will supply the want of prudence; and that negligence and irregularity, long continued, will make knowledge useless, wit ridiculous, and genius contemptible.



# EPISTLES.

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AN EPISTLE  
TO THE RIGHT HON.

SIR ROBERT WALPOLE.

**S**TILL let low wits, whose sense nor honor prize,  
Sneer at all gratitude, all truth disguise ;  
At living worth, because alive, exclaim,  
Insult the exil'd, and the dead defame !  
Such paint what pity veils in private woes,  
And what we see with grief with mirth expose ;  
Studious to urge—(whom will mean authors spare ?)  
The child's, the parent's, and the consort's tear ;  
Unconscious of what pangs the heart may rend,  
To lose what they have ne'er deserv'd—a friend.  
Such, ignorant of facts, invent, relate, 11  
Expos'd persist, and answer'd still debate ;  
Such but by foils the clearest lustre see,  
And deem aspersing others praising thee.  
Far from these tracks my honest lays aspire, 15  
And greet a gen'rous heart with gen'rous fire.  
Truth be my guide ! Truth ! which thy virtues  
claims ;  
This nor the poet nor the patron shames.  
When party-minds shall lose contracted views,  
And hist'ry question the recording Muse, 20

'Tis this alone to after-times must shine,  
And stamp the poet and his theme divine.

Long has my Muse, from many a mournful  
cause,  
Sung with small pow'r, nor sought sublime ap-  
plause ;

From that great point she now shall urge her scope,  
On that fair promise rest her future hope ; 26  
Where policy, from state illusion clear,  
Can through an open aspect shine sincere ;  
Where Science, Law, and Liberty, depend,  
And own the patron, patriot, and the friend ; 30  
(That breast to feel, that eye on worth to gaze,  
That smile to cherish, and that hand to raise !)  
Whose best of hearts her best of thoughts inflame,  
Whose joy is bounty, and whose gift is fame.

Where for relief flies Innocence distress'd ? 35  
To you, who chase oppression from th' oppress'd ;  
Who, when complaint to you alone belongs,  
Forgive your own though not a people's wrongs :  
Who still make public property your care,  
And thence bid private grief no more despair. 40

Ask they what state your shelt'ring care shall  
own ?

'Tis youth, 'tis age, the cottage, and the throne ;  
Nor can the prison 'scape your searching eye,  
Your ear still op'ning to the captive's cry,  
Nor less was promis'd from thy early shift, 45  
Ere pow'r enforc'd benevolence of will :



To friends refin'd thy private life adher'd,  
 By thee improving ere by thee preferr'd.  
 Well hadst thou weigh'd what truth such friends  
     afford,

With thee resigning, and with thee restor'd : 50  
 Thou taught'st them all extensive love to bear,  
 And now mankind with thee their friendships share.

As the rich cloud by due degrees expands,  
 And show'rs down plenty thick on sundry lands,  
 Thy spreading worth in various bounty fell, 55  
 Made genius flourish, and made art excel.

How many, yet deceiv'd, all pow'r oppose,  
 Their fears increasing as decrease their woes ;  
 Jealous of bondage while they freedom gain,  
 And most oblig'd, most eager to complain ? 60

But well we count our bliss if well we view,  
 When pow'r oppression, not protection grew ;  
 View present ills that punish distant climes,  
 Or bleed in mem'ry here from ancient times.

Mark first the robe, abus'd Religion wore, 65  
 Story'd with griefs, and stain'd with human gore !  
 What various torturés, engines, fires reveal,  
 Study'd, empow'r'd, and sanctify'd by zeal ?

Stop here, my Muse !—peculiar woes destroy,  
 Bid them in sad succession strike thy eye. 70  
 Lo ! to her eye the sad succession springs,

She looks, she weeps, and as she weeps she sings !  
 See the doom'd Hebrew of his stores bereft !  
 See holy Murder justify the theft !

avag'd gold some useless shrine shall raise, 75  
ems on superstitious idols blaze !

His wife, his babe, deny'd their little home,  
Stripp'd, starv'd, unfriended, and unpity'd roam !

Lo ! the priest's hand the wafer-god supplies !—  
A king by consecrated poison dies ! 80

See Learning range yon broad æthereal plain  
From world to world, and godlike Science gain !  
Ah ! what avails the curious search sustain'd,  
The finish'd toil, the godlike Science gain'd ?  
Sentenc'd to flames th' expansive wisdom fell, 85  
And truth from Heav'n was sorcery from Hell.

See Reason bid each mystic wile retire,  
Strike out new light, and mark !—the wise admire !  
Zeal shall such heresy, like Learning, hate,  
The same their glory, and the same their fate. 90

Lo ! from spught mercy one his life receives,  
Life worse than death that cruel Mercy gives :  
The man, perchance, who wealth and honors bore,  
Slaves in the mine, or ceaseless strains the oar. 94  
So doom'd are these, and such perhaps our doom,  
Own'd we a prince, avert it, Heav'n ! from Rome.  
Nor private worth alone false Zeal assails ;  
Whole nations bleed when bigotry prevails.  
What are sworn friendships ? what are kindred ties ?  
What's faith with heresy ? (the zealot cries.) 100  
See ! when war sinks the thund'ring cannons roar,  
When wounds, and death, and discord, are no more ;  
When music bids undreading joys advance,  
Swell the soft hour, and turn the swimming dance .

When to crown these, the social sparkling bowl  
 Lifes the cheer'd sense, and pours out all the soul;  
 Sudden he sends red Massacre abroad,  
 Faithless to man, to prove his faith to GOD.  
 What pure persuasive eloquence denies,  
 All-drunk with blood, the arguing sword supplies;  
 The sword, which to the assassin's hand is giv'n,  
 Th' assassin's hand!—pronounc'd the hand of  
 Heav'n!

Sex bleeds with sex, and infancy with age;  
 No rank, no place, no virtue stops his rage:  
 Shall sword, and flame, and devastation, cease 115  
 To please with zeal wild zeal! the God of Peace?

Nor less abuse has scourg'd the civil state,  
 When a king's will became a nation's fate;  
 Enormous pow'r! Nor, noble nor serene;—  
 Now fierce and cruel; now but wild and mean.  
 See titles sold, to raise th' unjust supply  
 Compell'd the purchase! or be fin'd, or buy!  
 No public spirit, guarded well by laws,  
 Uncensur'd censures in his country's cause.  
 See from the merchant forc'd th' unwilling loan!  
 Who dares deny, or deem his wealth his own?  
 Denying, see! where dungeon-damps arise, 127  
 Diseas'd he pines, and unassisted dies.

Far more than massacre that fate occurs!  
 As of all deaths the ling'ring is the worst, 130

New courts of censure griev'd with new offence,  
 Tax'd without pow'r, and fin'd without pretence;

Explain'd at Will, each statute's wrested aim,  
 Till marks of merit were the marks of shame;  
 So monstrous!—life was the severest grief, 135  
 And the worst death seem'd welcome for relief.

In vain the subject sought redress from law,  
 No senate liv'd the partial judge to awe:  
 Senates were void, and senators confin'd  
 For the great cause of Nature and Mankind. 140  
 Who kings superior to the people own,  
 Yet, prove the law superior to the throne.

Who can review, without a generous tear,  
 A Church, a State, so impious, so severe?  
 A land uncultur'd through polemic jars, 145  
 Rich!—but with carnage from intestine wars!  
 The hand of Industry employ'd no more,  
 And Commerce flying to some safer shore;  
 All property reduc'd, to Pow'r a prey,  
 And Sense and Learning chas'd by Zeal away?  
 Who honors not each dear departed ghost  
 That strove for Liberty so won, so lost;  
 So well regain'd, when Godlike William rose,  
 And first entail'd the blessing George bestows?  
 May Walpole still the growing triumph raise, 155  
 And bid these emulate Eliza's days;  
 Still serve a prince who, o'er his people great,  
 As far transcends in virtue as in state!

The Muse pursues thee to thy rural seat;  
 'E'en there shall Liberty inspire retreat. 160  
 When solemn cares in flowing wit are drown'd,  
 And sportive chat, and social-laughs go round;

Ev'n then, when passing mirth begins to fail,  
 The converse varies to the serious tale;  
 The tale pathetic speaks some wretch that owes  
 To some deficient law reliefless woes:  
 What instant pity warms thy gen'rous breast!  
 How all the legislator stands confest!  
 Now springs the hint! 'tis now improv'd to thought;  
 Now ripe! and now to public welfare brought!  
 New bills, which regulating means bestow,  
 Justice preserve, yet soft'ning mercy know:  
 Justice shall low vexatious wiles decline,  
 And still thrive most when lawyers most repine;  
 Justice, from jargon, shall, refin'd, appear, 175  
 To knowledge, through our native language clear.  
 Hence we may learn, no more deceived by law,  
 Whence wealth and life their best assurance draw.  
 The freed insolvent, with industrious hand,  
 Strives yet to satisfy the just demand: 180  
 Thus ruthless men, who would his pow'rs restrain,  
 Oft what severity would lose obtain.

These, and a thousand gifts, thy thoughts acquire,  
 Which Liberty benevolent inspires.  
 From Liberty the fruits of law increase, 185  
 Plenty, and joy, and all the arts of peace.  
 Abroad the merchant, while the tempests rave,  
 Advent'rous sails, nor fears the wind and waves  
 At home, untir'd, we find th' auspicious hand  
 With flocks, and herds, and harvests, bless the land;  
 While there, the peasant glads the grateful soil,  
 Here, mark the shipwright, there, the mason toil,

Hew, square, and rear, magnificent the stone,  
 And give our oaks a glory not their own !  
 What life demands, by this obeys her call, 195  
 And added elegance consummates all.

Thus stately cities, statelier navies rise,  
 And spread our grandeur under distant skies.  
 From Liberty each nobler science sprung,  
 A Bacon brighten'd, and a Spenser sung ; 200  
 A Clarke and Locke new tracks of truth explore,  
 And Newton reaches heights unreach'd before.

What Trade sees property that wealth maintain  
 Which Industry no longer dreads to gain ;  
 What tender conscience kneels with fears resign'd,  
 Enjoys her worship, and avows her mind ; 206  
 What genius now from want to fortune climbs,  
 And to safe Science every thought sublimes :  
 What Royal Pow'r, from his superior state,  
 Sees public happiness his own create, 210  
 But kens those patriot-souls to which he owes  
 Of old each source whence now each blessing  
 flows ?

And if such spirits from their heav'n descend,  
 And, blended, flame to point one glorious end ;  
 Flame from one bount, and thence on Britain  
 shine,  
 What love, what praise, O Walpole ! then is thine ?

## TO MR. JOHN DYER,

A PAINTER,

Advising him to draw a certain Noble and Illustrious Person;  
occasioned by seeing his Picture of the celebrated Clio,\*

**F**OR GIVE an artless, an officious friend,  
Weak, when I judge, but willing to commend;  
Fall'n as I am, by no kind fortune rais'd,  
Depress'd, obscur'd, unpity'd, and unprais'd;  
Yet when these well-known features I peruse,  
Some warmth awakes—some embers of a Muse.

Ye Muses, Graces, and ye Loves! appear;  
Your queen, your Venus, and your Clio's Here;  
In such pure fires her rising thoughts refine,  
Her eyes with such commanding sweetness shine,  
Such vivid tinctures sure through ether glow,  
Stain summer clouds, or gild the wat'ry bow;  
If life Pygmalion's iv'ry fav'rite fir'd,  
Sure some enamor'd god this draught inspir'd!  
Or, if you rashly caught Promethean flame,  
Shade the sweet theft, and mar the beauteous frame!  
Yet if those cheering lights the prospect fly,  
Ah!—let no pleasing view the loss supply:  
Some dreary den, some desert waste prepare,  
Wild as my thoughts, or dark as my despair.

But still, my Friend! still the sweet object stays,  
Still stream your colors rich with Clio's rays!

\* See Dyer's Poems.

Pure, at each kindling touch your canvas glows !  
 Sure the full form, instinct with spirit, grows !  
 Let the dull artist puzzling rules explore,  
 Dwell on the face, and gaze the features o'er ;  
 You eye the soul—there genuine nature find ;  
 You through the meaning muscles strike the mind.

Nor can one view such boundless pow'r confine,  
 All Nature opens to an art like thine !  
 Now rural scenes in simple grandeur rise,  
 Vales, hills, lawns, lakes, and vineyards, feast bur  
 Now halcyon Peace a smiling aspect wears ! [eyes !  
 Now the red scene with war and ruin glares !  
 Here Britain's fleets o'er Europe's seas preside ;  
 There long-lost cities rear their ancient pride !  
 You, from the grave, can half redeem the slain,  
 And bid great Julius charm the world again ;  
 Mark out Pharsalia's, mark out Munda's fray,  
 And image all the honors of the day.

But if new glories most our warmth excite,  
 If toils untry'd to noblest themes invite,  
 Would you in envy'd pomp unrivall'd reign,  
 Oh ! let Horatius grace the canvas plain ;  
 His form might ev'n idolatry create,  
 In lineage, titles, wealth, and worth, elate :  
 Empires to him might virgin honors owe,  
 From him arts, arms, and laws, new influence  
 know :

For him kind suns on fruits and grains shall shine,  
 And future gold lie rip'ning in the mine :



TO THE AUTHOR OF GRONGAR HILL. 155

For him fine marble in the quarry lies,  
Which in due statues to his fame shall rise.  
Through those bright features, Cæsar's spirit trace,  
Each conqu'ring sweetness, each imperial grace ;  
All that is soft, or eminently great,  
In love, in war, in knowledge, or in state.

Thus shall your colors like his worth amaze ;  
Thus shall you charm, enrich'd with Clio's praise :  
Clear, and more clear, your golden genius shines,  
While my dim lamp of life obscure declines :  
Dull'd in damp shades it wastes, unseen, away,  
While yours, triumphant, grows one blaze of day.

---

TO MR. JOHN DYER,

AUTHOR OF GRONGAR HILL.

In answer to his from the country.\*

Now various birds in melting concert sing,  
And hail the beauty of the op'ning spring ;  
Now to thy dreams the nightingale complains,  
Till the lark wakes thee with her cheerful strains ;  
Wakes, in thy verse and friendship, ever kind !  
Melodious comfort to my jarring mind.

Oh ! could my soul through depths of know-  
ledge see,  
Could I read Nature and mankind like thee,

I should o'ercome or bear the shocks of Fate,  
 And ev'n draw envy to the humblest state.  
 Thou canst raise honor from each ill event,  
 From shocks gain vigor, and from want content.

Think not light poetry my life's chief care ;  
 The Muse's mansion is at best but air ;  
 But if more solid works my meaning forms,  
 Th' unfinish'd structures fall, by Fortune's storms !

Oft have I said, we falsely those accuse,  
 Whose godlike souls life's middle state refuse.  
 Self-love, I cry'd, there seeks ignoble rest ;  
 Care sleeps not calm, when millions wake unblest ;  
 Mean let me shrink, or spread sweet shade o'er all,  
 Low as the shrub, or as the cedar tall !—  
 'Twas vain ! 'twas wild !—I sought the middle  
                   state,

And found the good, and found the truly great.

Though verse can never give my soul her aim,  
 Though action only claims substantial fame ;  
 Though Fate denies what my proud wants require,  
 Yet grant me, Heav'n ! by knowledge to aspire.  
 Thus to inquiry let me prompt the mind,  
 Thus clear dimm'd Truth, and bid her bless man-  
                   kind ;

From the pierc'd orphan thus draw shafts of grief,  
 Arm Want with patience, and teach Wealth relief.  
 To serve lov'd Liberty, inspire my breath !  
 Or, if my life be useless, grant me death !—  
 For he who useless is in life survey'd,  
 Burthens that world, his duty bids him aid.

Say, what have honors to allure the mind,  
 Which he gains most who least has serv'd mankind?  
 Titles, when worn by fools, I dare despise,  
 Yet they claim homage when they crown the wise.  
 When high distinction marks deserving heirs,  
 Desert still dignifies the mark it wears.  
 But who to birth alone would honors owe?  
 Honors, if true, from seeds of merit grow:  
 Those trees with sweetest charms invite our eyes,  
 Which from our own ingraftment fruitful rise.  
 Still we love best what we with labor gain,  
 As the child's dearer for the mother's pain.

The great I would not envy nor deride,  
 Nor stoop to swell a vain superior's pride,  
 Nor view an equal's hope with jealous eyes,  
 Nor crush the wretch beneath, who wailing lies.  
 My sympathizing breast his grief can feel,  
 And my eye weep the wound I cannot heal.  
 Ne'er among friendships let me sow debate,  
 Nor, by another's fall, advance my state;  
 Nor misuse wit against an absent friend:  
 Let me the virtues of a foe defend!  
 In wealth and want true minds preserve their  
     weight;  
 Meek, though exalted; though disgrac'd, elate;  
 Gen'rous and grateful, wrong'd or help'd they live;  
 Grateful to serve, and gen'rous to forgive.

This may they learn, who close thy life attend,  
 Which, dear in mem'ry, still instructs thy friend.

Though cruel distance bars my grosser eye,  
My soul, clear-sighted, draws thy virtue nigh ;  
Through her deep woe, that quick'ning comfort  
gleams,  
And lights up fortitude with friendship's beams.

---

## VERSES TO AARON HILL, ESQ.

With the Tragedy of

SIR THOMAS OVERBURY,

Expecting him to correct it.

As the soul, stripp'd of mortal clay,  
Grows all divinely fair ;  
And boundless roves the Milky Way,  
And views sweet prospects there ;

This hero, clogg'd with drossy lines,  
By thee new vigor tries ;  
As thy correcting hand refines,  
Bright scenes around him rise.

Thy touch brings the wish'd stone to pass  
So sought, so long foretold ;  
It turns polluted lead or brass,  
At once to purest gold.

## THE FRIEND.

AN EPISTLE TO AARON HILL, ESQ.

O MY lov'd Hill ! O thou by Heav'n design'd  
 To charm, to mend, and to adorn mankind !  
 To thee my hopes, fears, joys, and sorrows tend,  
 Thou brother, father, dearer yet !—thou Friend !

If worldly friendships oft cement, divide,  
 As int'rests vary, or as whims'p'reside ;  
 If leagues of Luxury borrow Friendship's light,  
 Or leagues subversive of all social right ;  
 O say, my Hill, in what propitious sphere  
 Gain we the Friend, pure, knowing, and sincere ?  
 'Tis where the worthy and the wise retire ;  
 There Wealth may learn its use, may Love inspire ;  
 There may young Worth the noblest end obtain,  
 In want may friends, in friends may knowledge gain,  
 In knowledge bliss ; for wisdom virtue finds,  
 And brightens mortal to immortal minds.  
 Kind then my wrongs, if love like yours succeed,  
 For you, like Virtue, are a friend indeed !

Oft when you saw my youth wild error know,  
 Reproof, soft hinted, taught the blush to glow.  
 Young and unform'd, you first my genius rais'd,  
 Just smil'd when faulty, and when mod'rate prais'd.  
 Me, shunn'd, me, ruin'd, (such a Mother's rage †)  
 You sung, till Pity wept o'er ev'ry page.

You call'd my lays and wrongs to early fame ;  
 Yet, yet th' obdurate mother felt no shame.  
 Pierc'd as I was, your counsel soften'd care,  
 To ease turn'd anguish, and to hope despair.  
 The man who never wound afflictive feels,  
 He never felt the balmy word that heals.  
 Welcome the wound when bless'd with such relief !

For deep is felt the Friend, when felt in grief.

From you shall never, but with life, remove  
 Aspiring genius, condescending love.  
 When some, with cold superior looks, redress,  
 Relief seems insult, and confirms distress ;  
 You ! when you view the man with wrongs besieg'd,  
 While warm you act th' obliger seem th' oblig'd.

All-winning, mild to each of lowly state ;  
 To equals free, unservile to the great ;  
 Greatness you honor, when by worth acquir'd ;  
 Worth is by worth in ev'ry rank admir'd.  
 Greatness you scorn when titles insult speak ;  
 Proud to vain Pride, to honor'd Meekness meek.  
 That worthless bliss which others court you fly ;  
 That worthy woe they shun, attracts your eye.

But shall the Muse resound alone your praise ?  
 No—let the public Friend exalt her lays !  
 O trace that Friend with me !—he's yours—he's  
 mine !

The world's—beneficent, behold him shine !  
 Is wealth his sphere ? If riches, like a tide,  
 From either India pour their golden pride ;

Rich in good works, him others' wants employ;  
He gives the widow's heart to sing for joy.  
To orphans, pris'ners, shall his bounty flow,  
The weeping family of Want and Woe.

Is knowledge his? Benevolently great,  
In leisure active, and in care sedate;  
What aid his little wealth perchance denies,  
In each hard instance his advice supplies.  
With modest truth he sets the wand'ring right,  
And gives religion, pure, primeval light;  
In love diffusive, as in light refin'd,  
The lib'ral emblem of his MAKER's mind.

Is pow'r his orb? He then, like pow'r divine,  
On all, tho' with a varied ray, will shine.  
Ere pow'r was his, the man he once carest,  
Meets the same faithful smile and mutual breast:  
But asks his friend some dignity of state;  
His friend, unequal to th' incumbent weight?  
Asks it a stranger, one whom parts inspire  
With all a people's welfare would require?  
His choice admits no pause; his gift will prove  
All private, well absorb'd in public love.  
He shields his country when for aid she calls;  
Or, should she fall, with her he greatly falls:  
But as proud Rome, with guilty conquest crown'd  
Spread slav'ry, death, and desolation, round,  
Should e'er his country, for dominion's prize,  
Against the sons of men a faction rise,  
Glory in hers is in his eye disgrace:  
The Friend of truth, the Friend of human race.

Thus to no one, no sect, no clime, confin'd,  
 His boundless love embraces all mankind :  
 And all their virtues in his life are known,  
 And all their joys and sorrows are his own !  
 These are the lights where stands that friend  
 Whom thou dost prize and prize shouldst confest ;  
 This is the spirit which informs thy breast.  
 Through Fortune's cloud, thy genuine worth can  
 shine ;  
 What wouldst thou not, were wealth and greatness  
 thine ?

---

## TO THE EXCELLENT MIRANDA,

CONSORT OF AARON HILL, ESQ.

On reading her Poems.

**E**ACH soft'ning charm of Clio's smiling song,  
 Montague's soul, which shines divinely strong,  
 These blend, with graceful ease, to form thy rhyme,  
 Tender, yet chaste,—sweet-sounding, yet sublime.  
 Wisdom and wit have made thy works their care,  
 Each passion glows refin'd by precept there :  
 To fair Miranda's form each Grace is kind ;  
 The Muses and the Virtues tune thy mind.



TO MRS. ELIZABETH HAYWOOD,  
ON HER NOVEL CALLED  
THE RASH RESOLVE.

DOOM'D to a fate which damps the poet's  
A Muse, unfriended, greets thy rising name ;  
Unvers'd in envy's, or in flatt'ry's phrase,  
Greatness she flies, yet merit claims her praise ;  
Nor will she at her withering wreath repine,  
But smile, if Fame and Fortune cherish thine.

The Sciences in thy sweet genius charm,  
And with their strength thy sex's softness arm.  
In thy full figures, painting's force we find ;  
As music fires, thy language lifts the mind :  
Thy pow'r gives form, and touches into life  
The passions imag'd in their bleeding strife :  
Contrasted strokes true art and fancy show,  
And light and shades in lively mixture flow.  
Hope attacks Fear ; and Reason, Love's control ;  
Jealousy wounds, and Friendship heals the soul :  
Black Falsehood wears bright Gallantry's disguise,  
And the gilt cloud enchants the fair-one's eyes.  
The dames, in grief and frailties, lovely shine,  
And when most mortal, half appear divine.  
If, when some godlike fav'rite passion sways,  
The willing heart too fatally obeys,  
Great minds lament what cruel censure blames,  
And ruin'd virtue gen'rous pity claims.

Eliza ! still impaint Love's powerful queen !  
 Let love, soft love, exalt each swelling scene.  
 Arm'd with keen wit, in Fame's wide lists advance ;  
 Spain yields in fiction, in politeness France.  
 Such orient light as the first poets knew  
 Flames from thy thought, and brightens ev'ry view !  
 A strong, a glorious, a luxuriant fire,  
 Which warms cold wisdom into wild desire !  
 Thy fable glows so rich through ev'ry page,  
 What moral's force can the fierce heat assuage ?  
 And yet—but say if ever doom'd to prove  
 The sad, the dear, perplexities of love !  
 Where seeming transport softens ev'ry pain,  
 Where fancy'd freedom waits the winning chain ;  
 Varying from pangs to visionary joys,  
 Sweet is the fate, and charms as it destroys !  
 Say then—if love to sudden rage gives way,  
 Will the soft passion not resume its sway ?  
 Charming and charm'd, can Love from Love retire ?  
 Can a cold convent quench th' unwilling fire ?  
 Precept, if human, may our thoughts refine ;  
 More we admire ; but cannot prove divine.

## AN EPISTLE TO MRS. OLDFIELD,

OF THE THEATRE-ROYAL.

**W**HILE to your charms unequal verse I raise,  
 Aw'd I admire, and tremble as I praise.

Here Art and Genius new refinement need,  
List'ning they gaze, and as they gaze recede !  
Can Art or Genius, or their pow'rs combin'd,  
But from corporeal organs sketch the mind ?  
When sound embody'd can, with shape, surprise,  
The Muse may emulate your voice and eyes.

Mark rival arts perfection's point pursue !  
Each rivals each, *but* to excel in you !  
The bust and medal bear the meaning face,  
And the proud statue adds the posture's grace ;  
Imag'd at length, the bury'd Heroine, known,  
Still seems to wound, to smile or frown in stone !  
As art would art, or metal stone surpass,  
Her soul strikes, gleaming, thro' Corinthian brass !  
Serene the saint in smiling silver shines,  
And cherubs weep in gold o'er sainted shrines !  
If long-lost forms from Raphael's pencil glow,  
Wond'rous in warmth the mimic colors flow ;  
Each look, each attitude, new grace displays ;  
Your voice and motion life and music raise.

Thus Cleopatra in your charms refines ;  
She lives, she speaks, with force improv'd she  
shines !

Fair, and more fair, you ev'ry grace transmit ;  
Love, learning, beauty, elegance, and wit.  
Cæsar, the world's unrival'd master, fir'd,  
In her imperial soul, his own admir'd !  
Philippi's victor wore her winning chain,  
And felt not empire's loss in Beauty's gain.

Could the pale heroes your bright influence know,  
Or catch the silver accents as they flow,  
Drawn from dark rest by your enchanting strain,  
Each shade were lur'd to life and love again.

Say, sweet Inspirer ! were each annal known,  
What living greatness shines there not your own !  
If the griev'd Muse by some lov'd empress rose,  
New strength, new grace, it to your influence owes ;  
If Pow'r, by war distinguish'd, height reveals,  
Your nobler pride the wounds of Fortune heals.  
Then could an empire's cause demand your care,  
The soul that justly thinks, would greatly dare.

Long has feign'd Venus mock'd the Muse's  
praise,  
You dart, divine Ophelia ! genuine rays.  
Warm thro' those eyes enliv'ning raptures roll,  
Sweet through each striking feature streams your  
soul !  
The soul's bright meanings heighten beauty's fires ;  
Your looks, your thoughts, your deeds, each grace  
inspires !

Know then, if rank'd with monarchs here you  
stand,  
What Fate declines, you from the Muse demand ;  
Each grace that shone of old in each fam'd fair,  
Or may in modern dames refinement wear ;  
Whate'er just, emulative thoughts pursue,  
Is all confirm'd, is all ador'd, in you !  
If godlike bosoms pant for pow'r to bless,  
If 'tis a monarch's glory to redress ;

In conscious majesty you shine serene,  
In thought a heroine, and in act a queen.

---

TO THE RIGHT HON.

BESSY COUNTESS OF ROCHFORD,

DAUGHTER OF THE LATE EARL RIVERS,

WHEN WITH CHILD.

As when the sun walks forth in flaming gold,  
Mean plants may smite, and humble flow'rs unfold,  
The low-laid lark the distant ether wings,  
And as she soars her daring anthem sings ;  
So, when thy charms celestial views create,  
My smiling song surmounts my gloomy fate ;  
Thy angel-embryo prompts my tow'ring lays,  
Claims my fond wish, and fires my future praise :  
May it, if male, its grandsire's image wear,  
Or in its mother's charms confess the fair !  
At the kind birth may each mild planet wait ;  
Soft be the pain, but prove the blessing great !

Hail, Rivers ! hallow'd shade ! descend from  
rest !

Descend, and smile to see thy Rochford blest :  
Weep not the scenes through which my life must  
run,

Though Fate, fleet-footed, scents thy languid son,  
The bar that, dark'ning, cross'd my crested claim,  
Yields at her charms, and brightens in their flame :

That blood which, honor'd, in thy Rochford reigns,  
 In cold, unwilling wand'rings trac'd my veins :  
 Want's wintry realm froze hard around my view,  
 And Scorn's keen blasts a cutting anguish blew.  
 To such sad weight my gath'ring griefs were  
     wrought,  
 Life seem'd not life, but when convuls'd with  
     thought !

Decreed beneath a mother's frown to pine,  
 Madness were ease to mis'ry form'd like mine !  
     Yet my Muse waits thee through the realms of  
     day,

Where lambent lightnings round thy temples play.  
 Sure my fierce woes will, like those fires, refine,  
 Thus lose their torture, and thus glorious, shine !  
 And now the Muse heav'n's milky path surveys,  
 With thee, 'twixt pendent worlds it wond'ring  
     strays,

Worlds which, unnumber'd as thy virtues, roll  
 Round suns—fix'd, radiant emblems of thy soul !  
 Hence lights refracted run through distant skies,  
 Changeful, on azure plains, in quiv'ring dyes !  
 So thy mind darted through its earthy frame  
 A wide, a various, and a glitt'ring flame.

Now, a new scene, enormous, lustre brings,  
 Now seraphs shade thee round with silver wings ;  
 In angel forms thou seest thy Rochford shine :  
 In each sweet form is trac'd her beauteous line !  
 Such was her soul, ere this selected mould  
 Sprung at thy wish, the sparkling life t'infold !

So, amidst cherubs, shone her son refin'd,  
Ere infant flesh the new-form'd soul enshrin'd !  
So shall a sequent race from Rochford rise,  
The world's fair pride—descendants of the skies.

---

## VERSES TO A YOUNG LADY.

POLLY ! from me, though now a love-sick youth,  
Nay, though a poet, hear the voice of Truth.  
Polly ! you're not a beauty, yet you're pretty ;  
So grave, yet gay ; so silly, yet so witty ;  
A heart of softness, yet a tongue of satire ;  
You've cruelty, yet, ev'n with that, good-nature :  
Now you are free, and now reserv'd a-while ;  
Now a forc'd frown betrays a willing smile.  
Reproach'd for absence, yet your sight deny'd ;  
My tongue you silence, yet my silence chide.  
How would you praise me, should your sex defame ;  
Yet, should they praise, grow jealous, and exclaim.  
If I despair, with some kind look you bless ;  
But if I hope, at once all hope suppress.  
You scorn, yet should my passion change or fail,  
Too late you'd whimper out a softer tale.  
You love, yet from your lover's wish retire ;  
Doubt, yet discern ; deny, and yet desire.  
Such, Polly ! are your sex—part truth, part fiction ;  
Some thought, much whim, and all a contradiction.

## EPISTLE TO DAMON AND DELIA.

**H**EAR Damon ! Delia ! hear, in candid lays,  
Truth without anger, without flatt'ry praise.

A bookish mind, with pedantry unfraught,  
Oft a sedate, yet never gloomy thought ;  
Prompt to rejoice when others pleasure know,  
And prompt to feel the pang for others woe ;  
To soften faults, to which a foe is prone,  
And in a friend's perfection praise your own ;  
A will sincere, unknown to selfish views,  
A heart of love, of gallantry a Muse ;  
A delicate yet not a jealous mind ;  
A passion ever fond, yet never blind,  
Glowing with am'rous, yet with guiltless fires,  
In over-eager, never gross, desires ;  
A modest honor, sacred to contain  
From tattling vanity when smiles you gain ;  
Constant, most pleas'd when beauty most you  
please ;

Damon ! your picture's shown in tints like these.

Say, Delia ! must I chide you or commend ?  
Say, must I be your flatt'rer or your friend ?

To praise no graces in a rival fair,  
Nor your own foibles in a sister spare ;  
Each lover's billet bant'ring to reveal,  
And never known one secret to conceal ;  
Young, fickle, fair, a levity inborn,  
To treat all sighing slaves with flippant scorn ;



An eye, expressive of a wand'ring mind ;  
 Nor this to read, nor that to think inclin'd ;  
 Or when a book or thought from whim retards,  
 Intent on songs or novels, dress or cards ;  
 Choice to select the party of delight,  
 To kill time, thought, and fame, in frolic flight ;  
 To flatter here, to flurry there, on wing ;  
 To talk, to tease, to simper, or to sing :  
 To prude it, to coquette it—him to trust  
 Whose vain, loose life should caution or disgust ;  
 Him to dislike whose modest worth should please ;—  
 Say, is your picture shown in tints like these ;  
 Yours !—you deny it—Hear the point then try'd,  
 Let Judgment, Truth, the Muse, and Love decide.  
 What! yours!—Nay, fairest Trifler! frown not so:  
 Is it? the Muse with doubt—Love answers No :  
 You smile—Is't not? Again the question try—  
 Yes, Judgment thinks; and Truth will Yes reply.

TO MISS M—— H——,

SENT WITH MR. POPE'S WORKS.

SEE female vice and female folly here  
 Rally'd with wit polite or lash'd severe :  
 Let Pope present such objects to our view ;  
 Such are, my Fair ! the full reverse of you.  
 Rapt when, to Loden stream \* from Windsor'  
     shades  
 He sings the modest charms of sylvan maids.

\* Alluding to the episode of Loden in Windsor Forest.



Tell her, my Muse ! in soft, sad, sighing, breath,  
If she his piercing grief can pitying see,  
Worse, than to him was his Olympia's death,  
From her each moment's absence is to me.

---

## TO JOHN POWELL, ESQ.

BARRISTER AT LAW.

IN me long absent, long with anguish fraught,  
In me, tho' silence long has deaden'd thought,  
Yet mem'ry lives, and call the Muse's aid,  
To snatch our friendship from oblivion's shade.  
As soon the sun shall cease the world to warm,  
As soon Llanelly's Fair\* that world to charm,  
As grateful sense of goodness, true like thine,  
Shall e'er desert a breast so warm as mine.

When imag'd Cambria strikes my mem'ry's eye,  
(Cambria! my darling scene !) I, sighing, cry,  
Where is my Powell ? dear Associate ;—where ?  
To him I would unbosom ev'ry care ;  
To him who early felt from beauty pain,  
Gall'd in a plighted, faithless virgin's chain.  
At length, from her ungen'rous fetters freed,  
Again he loves ! he wooes ! his hopes succeed !  
But the gay bridegroom, still by Fortune cross'd,  
Is, instant, in the weeping widower lost.

\* Mrs. Bridget Jones.

Her, his sole joy ! her from his bosom torn,  
What feeling heart but learns, like his, to mourn ?  
Can Nature, then, such sudden shocks sustain ?  
Nature thus struck, all reason pleads in vain !  
Tho' late, from reason yet he draws relief,  
Dwells on her mem'ry, but dispels his grief.  
Love, wealth, and fame, (tyrannic passions all !)  
No more inflame him, and no more enthrall,  
He seeks no more in Rufus' Hall renown,  
Nor envies Pelf the jargon of the gown ;  
But, pleas'd with competence, on rural plains  
His wisdom courts that ease his worth obtains.  
Would private jars, which sudden rise, increase ?  
His candour smiles all discord into peace.  
To party storms is public weal resign'd ?  
Each steady patriot virtue steers his mind.  
Calm on the beach, while madd'ning billows rave,  
He gains philosophy from ev'ry wave ;  
Science from ev'ry object round he draws,  
From various nature, and from nature's laws.  
He lives o'er ev'ry past historic age ;  
He calls forth ethics from the fabled page.  
Him evangelic truth to thought excites,  
And him by turns each classic Muse delights.  
When wit well-natur'd, wit, that would disdain  
A pleasure rising from another's pain ;  
Social to all, and most of bliss possess ;  
When most he renders all around him blest ;  
To unread 'squires illiterately gay ;  
Among the learn'd, as learned full as they ;

With the polite, all, all-accomplish'd ease,  
By Nature form'd, without deceit, to please.

Thus shines thy youth ; and thus my friend, elate  
In bliss as well as worth, is truly great.  
Me still should ruthless Fate, unjust, expose  
Beneath those clouds that rain unnumber'd woes ;  
Me to some nobler sphere should Fortune raise,  
To wealth conspicuous and to laurell'd praise ;  
Unalter'd, yet be love and friendship mine ;  
I still am Chloe's, and I still am thine.

END OF VOL. I.



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THE  
**POETICAL WORKS**  
 OF  
**RICHARD SAVAGE.**

WITH  
*THE LIFE OF THE AUTHOR,*

BY SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL.D

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Of blooming genius, judgment, wit, possess'd,  
 By poets envied, and by peers curs'd. CAUTIONER

O'er ample Nature I extend my views;  
 Nature to rural scenes invites the Muse;  
 She flies all public care, all venal strife,  
 To try the still, compar'd with active life;  
 To prove by these the song of men may owe  
 The fruits o' bliss to herding clouds of woe,  
 That ev'n Calamity, by thought restrain'd,  
 Inspires and adorns the thinking mind. WANDERER

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

**VOL. II.**

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1807.





that half cancelled the obligation, and, perchance, must have been acquired too by some previous act of guilt in the receiver, the consequence of which was remorse and infamy.

But that I live, my Lord, is a proof that dependence on your Lordship and the present Ministry is an assurance of success. I am persuaded distress, in many other instances, affects your soul with a compassion that always shews itself in a manner most humane and active; that to forgive injuries and confer benefits is your delight; and that to deserve your friendship is to deserve the countenance of the best of men. To be admitted into the honor of your Lordship's conversation (permit me to speak but justice) is to be elegantly introduced into the most instructive as well as entertaining parts of literature; it is to be furnished with the most observations upon current, and to receive from the most unassuming, sweet, and winning candor, the worthiest and most polite opinions—such as are always enforced by the actions of your own life. I could also take notice of your warm, public-spirited services to your country in parliament, and your constant attachment to Liberty and the royal illustrious house of our most gracious sovereign; but, my Lord, believe me, your own deeds are the noblest and finest sources to speak your praise, and will always be far beyond the power of a much inferior writer than I am.

-- I will therefore but, my Lord, sign your Lord

ship's virtues to the kind influence of them, which has been so lately shed upon me, and then, if my future morals and writings shall gain any approbation from men of parts and probity, I must acknowledge all to be the product of your Lordship's goodness to me. I must, in fine, say with Horace,

' Quod spero, et placeo, (si placeo) tuum est '

I am,

With the highest gratitude and veneration,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most dutiful

and devoted servant,

RICHARD SAVAGE.





## MISCELLANIES.

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### THE WANDERER.

A VISION.

IN FIVE CANTOS.

---

*' Nulla mali nova mi facies inopinate surgit.'* VIRG.

---

#### CANTO I.

FAIN would, my verse, Tyroncel! boast thy  
name,  
Brownlowe! at once my subject and my fame.  
Oh! could that spirit which thy bosom warms,  
Whose strength surprises, and whose goodness  
charms;  
That various worth! could that inspire my lays, &  
Envy should smite, and Censure learn to praise!  
Yet, though unequal to a soul like thine,  
A generous soul, approaching to divine!  
When blest beneath such patronage I write,  
Great my attempt, though hazardous my flight, I  
O'er ample Nature I extend my views;  
Nature to rural scenes invites the Muse:

She flies all public care, all venal strife,  
 To try the still, compar'd with active, life ;  
 To prove, by these, the sons of men may owe 15  
 The fruits of bliss to bursting clouds of woe ;  
 That ev'n Calamity, by thought refuld,  
 Inspires and adorns the thinking mind.

Come, Contemplation ! whose unbounded gaze,  
 Swift, in a glance, the course of things surveys, 20  
 Who, in thyself the various view canst find,  
 Of sea, land, air, and heav'n, and human-kind ;  
 What tides of passion in the bosom roll,  
 What thoughts debase and what exalt the soul ;  
 Whose pencil paints, obsequious to thy will, 25  
 All thou survey'st with a creative skill !  
 Oh ! leave a-while thy lov'd sequester'd shade ;  
 A-while in wintry wilds vouchsafe thy aid ;  
 Then wait'st up to the olive bow'rs green,  
 Where, cloth'd in white, thou show'st a mind  
 serene 30

Where kind Content from noise and court retires,  
 And, smiling, sits while Muses tune their lyres :  
 Where Zephyrs gently breathe, while Sleep pro-  
 found,  
 To their soft fanning, nods, with poppans crown'd ;  
 Sleep, on a treasure of bright dreams reclines, 35  
 By thee bestow'd ;—whence Fancy, color'd, shines  
 And Suters round his latest a-horring sight,  
 Varying her phantasies in visionary light.

The colder fire now faint and wat'ry burns,  
 Just where with ice Aquarius frets his urn ; 40

If thaw'd, forth issue, from its mouth severe,  
Raw clouds, then sadden all, th' inverted year.

When Frost and Fire with martial pow'r en-  
gag'd, .

Frost, northward, fled the war unequal wag'd;  
Beneath the pale his legions wag'd their flight, 48  
And gain'd a cave profound and wide as night;  
O'er cheerless scenes, by Desolation own'd,  
High on an Alp of ice he sits enthron'd;  
One clay-cold hand his crystal beard sustains, 49  
And, sceptred, one o'er wind and tempest reigns;  
O'er stony magazines of hail, that storm  
The blossom'd fruit, and flow'ry Spring deform;  
His languid eyes like frozen lakes appear,  
Dim-gleaming all the light that wanders here; 54  
His robe snow-wrought, and hoar'd with age; his  
A nitrous damp, that strikes petrific death! [breath

Far hence lies, ever frozen, the northern main,  
That checks, and renders navigation vain,  
That, shut against the sun's dissolving ray,  
Scatters the trembling sides of vanquish'd day, 60  
And, stretching eastward, half the world secures,  
Defies discovery, and like time endures!

Now Frost and Fire, to scourge the air,  
To bind the streams, and leave the landscape bare;  
Yet when, far west, his violence declines, 64  
Though here the frost, as late his pow'r confesses,  
To rocky peaks, to craggy, ice unknown,  
His chills—to rivers rapid like the Rhone!

The falling moon cast, cold, a quiv'ring light,  
 Just silver'd o'er the snow, and sunk—pale Night  
 Reel'd! the dawn in light-gray mists arose! 71  
 Shrill chants the cock!—the hungry heifer lowes!  
 Slow blank yon breaking clouds!—the sun's uproft!  
 Th' expansive gray turns sure char'd with gold!  
 White-glitt'ring ice, chang'd like the topaz, gleams,  
 Reflecting saffron lustre from his beams! 76

O Contemplation! teach me to explore,  
 From Britain far remote, some distant shore;  
 From sleep a dream distinct and lively claim;  
 Clear let the Vision strike the mortal's aim! 80  
 It comes! I feel it o'er my soul serene!  
 Still Morn begins, and Frost retains the scene!

Hark!—the loud horn's enliv'ning note's begun,  
 From rock to vale sweet-wand'ring echoes run!  
 Still floats the sound shrill-winding from far! 85  
 Wild beams anon th' dread the sylvan war!  
 Spears to the sun in flies embattled play,  
 March on, charge briskly, and enjoy the fray!

Swans, ducks, and geese, and the wing'd winter-  
 Chatter discordant on yon eth'ring flood! {brook,  
 At Babel thus, when Heaven the tongue confoundeth,  
 Sudden a thousand diff'rent jargon sounds,  
 Like jangling bells, harsh mingling, grab the ear;  
 All stare! all talk! all mean! but none understand!  
 Mark! wily serpents enchain their destiny! 93  
 And smoky Foe speeds thund'ring through the  
 glen!

Stopp'd short, they cease in airy wings to fly,  
Whirl o'er and o'er, and, flut'ring, fall and die !

Still, Fancy wafts me on ! deceiv'd I stand,  
Estrang'd, advent'rous on a foreign land ! 100  
Wide and more wide extends the scene unknown !  
Where shall I turn, a Wand'rer ! and alone ?

From hilly wilds, and depths where snows re-  
main,

My winding steps up a steep mountain strain ;  
Emers'd a-top, I mark the hills subside, 105  
And tow'rs aspire but with inferior pride.

On this bleak height tall sit, with ice-work crown'd,  
Bend, while their flaky winter shades the ground ;  
Hoarse, and direct, a blust'ring north-wind blows ;  
On boughs, thick-rustling, crack the crisped snows ;  
Tangles of frost half fright the wilder'd eye, 111  
By heat oft blacken'd like a low'ring sky :

Hence down the side two turbid riv'lets pour,  
And devious two, in one huge cataract roar ;  
While pleas'd the wat'ry program I peruse, 115  
Yon rocks in rough assemblage rush in view ;  
In form an amphitheatre they rise,  
And a dark gulf in their bosom centre lies :

There the dimm'd light with daisy weakness fails,  
And horror o'er the faintest brain prevails ! 120  
Thicker those mountain streams their passage take ;  
How long down, down, and down a dreadful lake !  
The high, high mountains, or volcanic peaks,  
From the base'd snow deriv'd a river seek, —

Which deep'ning, travels through a distant wood,  
 And thence emerging, meets a sister-flood ; 136  
 Mingled they flash on a wide-op'ning plain,  
 And pass yon city to the far-seen main.

So blend two souls by Heav'n for union made,  
 And strength'ning forward lend a mutual aid, 138  
 And prove, in ev'ry transient turn, their arm  
 Through finite life to infinite the same.

Nor ends the landscape—Ocean, to my sight,  
 Points a blue arm, where sailing ships delight,  
 In prospect leaven'd !—Now new rocks, rear'd high,  
 Stretch a cross ridge, and bar the curious eye ; 139  
 There lies obscur'd the rip'ning diamond's ray,  
 And thence red-branching coral's rent away :  
 In coniferous these gelid crystal grows :  
 Though such the palace-lamp gay lustre throws !  
 Lustre which, through dim light, as various plays  
 As play from yonder snows the changeful rays !  
 For nobler are the crystal's worth they rise,  
 If tubes perspective turn the spotless prize ; 144  
 Through these, the beam of the far-lengthen'd eye  
 Measure known stars, and new remoter spy :  
 Hence Oculutrice many a shorten'd voyage meets,  
 Shorten'd to months, the hither side of years :  
 Hence Halley's soul ethereal flight essays ;  
 Immature there from 1706 to 1768 the stars ; 146  
 See, round our countr'ies, new systems roll !  
 See GOD be all, and magnify the whole !  
 Yon rocky side enrich'd the summer heat,  
 And peasants search for herbs of healthful green ;

Now naked, pale, and comfortless it lies, 155  
 Like youth, extended cold, in Death's disguise :  
 There, while without the sounding tempest swells,  
 Incav'd secure, th' exulting eagle dwells :  
 And there, when Nature owns prolific spring,  
 Spreads o'er her young a fondling mother's wing.  
 Swains on the coast the far-fam'd fish descry, 161  
 That gives the fleecy robe the Tyrian dye,  
 While shells a scatter'd ornaments bestow,  
 The unctur'd rivals of the show'ry bow.  
 Yon braceless sands, loose driving with the wind,  
 In future caldrons useful texture find, 166  
 Till on the surface thrown, the glowing mass  
 Brightens, and, bright'ning, hardens into glass.  
 When winter halcyons, flickering on the wave,  
 Tune their complaints, yon sea forgets to rave ;  
 Though lash'd by storms which naval pride o'erturn,  
 The foaming deep in sparkles seems to burn ;  
 Loud winds tune zephyrs to enlarge their notes,  
 And each safe row, on a calm surface floats. 174

Now vacs the wind fall east ; and keen and sore  
 Its cutting influence stabs in ev'ry pore.  
 How weak thy fabric, Man !—A puff thus blown,  
 Staggens thy strength, and strikes to thy ground :  
 A tooth's slightest nerve let anguish seize,  
 Swift kindred fibres catch : (re-fell our ease.) 180  
 Pinch'd, pierc'd, and torn, instant and conscious'd,  
 They smart, and swell, and throb, and smart again.  
 right.

From nerve to nerve fierce flies th' exulting pain!—  
 And are we of this mighty fabric vain?  
 Now my blood chills! scarce through my veins it  
 glides! 185

Sure on each blast a shiv'ring ague rides!  
 Warn'd, let me this bleak eminence forsake,  
 And to the vale a diff'rent winding take!

Half I descend; my spirits fast decay;  
 A terrace now relieves my weary way. 190

Close with this stage a precipice combines,  
 Whence still the spacious country far declines:  
 The herds seem insects in the distant glades,  
 And men diminish, as at noon their shades! 194  
 Thick on this top, o'ergrown, for walks, are seen  
 Gray leafless wood, and winter-greens between!  
 The redd'ning berry deep-ting'd holly shows,  
 And matted mistletoe the white bestows!  
 Though lost the banquet of autumnal fruits, 199  
 Though on broad oaks no vernal verbrage shoots,  
 These boughs the silenc'd shiv'ring songsters seek,  
 These foodful berries fill the hungry beak!

Beneath, appears a place all outward bare,  
 Inward the dreary mansion of Despair!  
 The warts of the mountain toad, half stry'd, 205  
 Breaks o'er it wild, and forms a brown cascade.

Has Nature this rough naked piece design'd  
 To hold exhibition of mortal kind?  
 She has. Approach! discover a deep descent,  
 Which opens in a rock a large extent, 210



And hark!—its hollow entrance reach'd, I hear  
A trampling sound of footsteps hast'ning near !  
A death-like chillness thwarts my panting breast :  
Soft ! the wish'd object stands at length confest !  
Of youth his form !—but why with anguish bent ?  
Why pin'd with sallow marks of discontent ? 216  
Yet Patience, lab'ring to beguile his care,  
Seems to raise hope, and smiles away despair ;  
Compassion in his eye surveys my grief,  
And in his voice invites me to relief. 220

' Preventive of thy call, behold my haste,'  
He says, ' nor let warm thanks thy spirits waste !  
' All fear forget—Each portal I possess  
' Duty wide opens to receive distress.'  
Oblig'd I follow, by his guidance led, 225  
The vaulted roof re-echoing to our tread !  
And now, in squar'd divisions, I survey  
Chambers sequester'd from the glare of day ;  
Yet needful lights are taught to intervene  
Through rifts, each forming a perspective scene.

In front, a parlor meets my ent'ring view, 231  
Oppos'd a room to sweet refection due :  
Here my chill'd veins are warm'd by chippy fires,  
Through the bor'd rock above the smoke expires :  
Neat, o'er a homely board, a napkin's spread, 235  
Crown'd with a heapy canister of bread :  
A maple cup is next, dispatch'd, to bring  
The comfort of the salutary spring :  
Nor mourn we absent blessings of the vine,  
Here laughs a frugal bowl of rosy wine ; 240.

And sav'ry cates, upon clear embers cast,  
 Lie hissing, till snatch'd off; a rich repast!  
 Soon leap my spirits with enliven'd pow'r,  
 And in gay converse glides the feastful hour.

The hermit thus: 'Thou wonder'st at thy fare:  
 ' On me yon city, kind, bestows her care: 246  
 ' Meat for keen famine, and the gen'rous juice  
 ' That warms chill'd life, her charities produce.  
 ' Accept without reward: unask'd 'twas mine:  
 ' Here what thy health requires as free be thine.  
 ' Hence learn that GOD, (who, in the time of  
 ' need, 251  
 ' In frozen deserts can the raven feed,)  
 ' Well-sought, will delegate some pitying breast,  
 ' His second means, to succor man distress.'  
 He paus'd; deep thought upon his aspect gloom'd;  
 Then he, with smile humane, his voice resum'd:  
 ' I'm just inform'd, (and laugh me not to scorn,)  
 ' By one unseen by thee, thou'rt English born.  
 ' Of England!—To me the British state  
 ' Rises, in dear memorial, ever great! 260  
 ' Here stand we conscious—diffidence suspend!  
 ' Free flow our words!—Did ne'er thy Muse ex-  
 ' tend  
 ' To grots, where Contemplation smiles serene,  
 ' Where angels visit, and where joys convene?  
 ' To groves where more than mortal voices rise,  
 ' Catch the rapt soul, and waft it to the skies?  
 ' This cave—yon walks—But, ere I more unfold,  
 ' What artful scenes thy eyes shall here behold?

- ' Think subjects of my toil : nor wond'ring gaze ;  
 ' What cannot Industry completely raise ? 270  
 ' Be the whole earth in one great landscape found,  
 ' By Industry is all with beauty crown'd !  
 ' He, he alone, explores the mine for gain,  
 ' Hues the hard rock, or harrows up the plain ;  
 ' He forms the sword to smite ; he sheaths the steel ;  
 ' Draws health from herbs, and shews the balm to  
     heal ; 276  
 ' Or with loom'd wool the native robe supplies,  
 ' Or bids young plants in future forests rise ;  
 ' Or fells the monarch oak, which, borne away,  
 ' Shall, with new grace, the distant ocean sway ;  
 ' Hence, golden Commerce views her wealth in-  
 ' The blissful child of Liberty and Peace : [crease,  
 ' He scoops the stubborn Alps, and, still employ'd,  
 ' Fills with soft fertile mould the steril void ; 284  
 ' Slop'd up white rocks small yellow harvests grow,  
 ' And green on terrac'd stages vineyards blow !  
 ' By him fall mountains to a level space,  
 ' An isthmus sinks, and sunder'd seas embrace !  
 ' He founds a city on the naked shore,  
 ' And Desolation starves the tract no more ; 290  
 ' From the wild waves he won the Belgic land ;  
 ' Where wide they foam'd, her towns and traffics  
     stand ;  
 ' He clear'd, manur'd, enlarg'd the furtive ground,  
 ' And firmes the conquest with his fenceful mound :  
 ' By'n mid the wat'ry world his Venice rose, 295  
 ' Each fabric there as Pleasure's seat he shows !

- ' There marts, sports, councils, are for action  
   ' sought,  
 ' Landscapes for health, and solitude for thought.  
 ' What wonder then I, by his potent aid,  
 ' A mansion in a barren mountain made? 300  
 ' Part thou hast view'd—If further we explore,  
 ' Let Industry deserve applause no more.  
   ' No frowning care yon bless'd apartment sees,  
 ' There Sleep retires, and finds a couch of ease :  
 ' Kind dreams, that fly remorse, and pamper'd  
   ' wealth, 305  
 ' There shed the smiles of Innocence and Health.  
   ' Mark ! here descends a grot, delightful seat !  
 ' Which warms ev'n winter, tempers summer heat !  
 ' See !—gurgling from a-top a spring distils !  
 ' In mournful measures wind the dripping rills ;  
 ' Soft coos of distant doves, receiv'd around, 311  
 ' In soothing mixture swell the wat'ry sound ;  
 ' And hence the streamlets seek the terrace' shade,  
 ' Within, without, alike to all convey'd.  
 ' Pass on—New scenes, by my creative pow'r,  
 ' Invite Reflection's sweet and solemn hour.' 316  
   We enter'd where, in well-rang'd order, stood  
 Th' instructive volumes of the wise and good.  
 ' These friends,' said he, ' though I desert mankind,  
 ' Good angels never would permit behind. 320  
 ' Each genius, youth conceals, or time displays  
 ' I know ; each work some seraph here conveys ;  
 ' Retirement, thus presents my searchful thought,  
 ' What Heav'n inspir'd, and what the Muse has  
   ' taught ;

- ' What Young satiric and sublime has writ, 325
- ' Whose life is virtue, and whose Muse is wit.
- ' Rapt, I foresee thy Mallet's \* early aim
- ' Shine in full worth, and shoot at length to fame :
- ' Sweet fancy's bloom in Fenton's lay appears,
- ' And the ripe judgment of instructive years : 330
- ' In Hill is all, that gen'rous souls revere,
- ' To Virtue and the Muse for ever dear :
- ' And, Thomson ! in this praise thy merit see ;
- ' The tongue that praises merit, praises thee.

" These scorn," said I, " the verse-right of  
" their age, 335

- " Vain of a labor'd, languid, useless page ;
- " To whose dim faculty, the meaning song
- " Is glaring, or obscure when clear and strong ;
- " Who, in cant phrases gives a work disgrace,
- " His wit and oddness of his tone and face ; 340
- " Let the weak malice, nurs'd to an essay,
- " In some low libel a mean heart display ;
- " Those who once prais'd, now undeceiv'd, despise,
- " It lives contemn'd a day, then harmless dies.
- " Or should some nobler bard their worth unpraise,
- " Denying morals that adorn his lays, 346
- " Alas ! too oft each science shows the same,
- " The great, grow jealous of a greater name.
- " Ye Bards ! the frailty mourn, yet brave the shock ;
- " Has not a Sallust fleet oppos'd a Locke ? 350
- " Oh ! still proceed, with sacred rapture fir'd ;
- " Unenvy'd had he liv'd if unadmird."

\* Signified then just written *The Excursion*.



- " 'Tis Envy stings our darling passion pride."  
 ' Alas! ' the man of mighty soul reply'd,  
 ' Why choose we mis'ries? Most derive their birth  
 ' From one bad source—we dread superior worth;  
 ' Preferr'd, it seems a satire on our own;      385  
 ' Then, heedless to excel, we meanly moan:  
 ' Then we abstract our views, and envy show,  
 ' Whence springs the mis'ry Pride is doom'd to  
     ' know.  
 ' Thus folly, pain creates: by wisdom's pow'r  
 ' We shun the weight of many a restless hour.  
 ' Lo! I meet wrong; perhaps the wrong I feel  
 ' Tends, by the scheme of things, to public weal.  
 ' I of the whole am part—the joy, men see,  
 ' Must circulate, and so revolve to me.      394  
 ' Why should I then of private loss complain?  
 ' Of loss, that proves, perchance, a brother's gain?  
 ' The wind that binds one bark within the bay,  
 ' May waft a richer freight its wish'd-for way.  
 ' If rains redundant flood the abject ground,  
 ' Mountains are 'but supply'd when vales are  
     ' drown'd;      400  
 ' If, with soft mountains swell'd, the vale looks gay,  
 ' The verdure of the mountain fades away.  
 ' Shall I then care, as my welfare's call descend?  
 ' Shall I for me her laws suspend?  
 ' For aught shall suns their noon-tide course forbear?  
 ' Or winds to me submit to influence air?      406  
 ' Let the world vary, whether frost or flame,  
 ' The God, to Nature! still remains the same,

- ' Be this the motive of a wise man's care—  
 ' To shun deserving illa, and learn to bear.' 420

## CANTO II.

WHILE thus a mind humane and wise he shows,  
 All eloquent of truth his language flows :  
 Youth, though depress'd, through all his form ap-  
     pears,  
 Through all his sentiments the depth of years.  
 Thus he—' Yet farther industry behold,      5  
 ' Which conscious waits new wonders to unfold.  
 ' Enter my chapel next—Lo! here begin  
 ' The hallow'd rites that check the growth of sin.  
 ' When first we met, how soon you seem'd to-  
     know  
 ' My bosom, lab'ring with the throbs of woe! 10  
 ' Such racking throbs!—Soft! when I rouse these  
     cares,  
 ' On my chill'd mind, pale Recollection glares!  
 ' When moping Frenchy stings my thoughts to sway,  
 ' Here prudent labors chase their pow'r away.  
 ' Fall, and rough-rising from yon sculptur'd wall,  
 ' Bold prophets, nations to repentance call! 16  
 ' Meek martyrs smile in flames! god's denunciations  
     groan!  
 ' And muse-like cherubs tune their harp in song!  
 ' Next shadow'd light, a wand'ring form appears,  
 ' Swells into life, and speaking action shows! 20



- ' Here, pleasing yet holy subjects find  
 ' To calm, amuse, and still the pensive mind !  
 ' This figure, tender grief, like mine, implies,  
 ' And semblant thoughts that earthly pomp despise.  
 ' Such, penitential Magdalene reveals ; 25  
 ' Loose-veil'd, in negligence of charms she kneels :  
 ' Though dress, ne'er stor'd, its vanity supplies,  
 ' The vanity of dress unheeded lies :  
 ' The sinful world in sorrowing eye she keeps,  
 ' As o'er Jerusalem MESSIAH weeps ; 30  
 ' One hand her bosom smites, in one appears  
 ' The lifted lawn, that drinks her falling tears.  
 ' Since evil outweighs good, and sways mankind,  
 ' True fortitude assumes the patient mind :  
 ' Such prov'd MESSIAH's, though to suffering  
 ' born, 35  
 ' To penury, repulse, reproach, and scorn.  
 ' Here, by the pencil, mark His flight design'd,  
 ' The weary'd virgin by a stream reclin'd,  
 ' Who feeds the child : her looks a charm express,  
 ' A modest charm ! that signifies distress : 40  
 ' Boughs, like those which with blushing fruits de-  
 ' cor'd, and  
 ' Which angels of heav'n's consort bend :  
 ' Honor by the smiling infant seems discern'd,  
 ' To him, concerning Him, all heav'n concern'd.  
 ' Here the transfigur'd SON from earth retires ;  
 ' See, how His form in a bright cloud ascends ! 45  
 ' But, as He rises, burst a flood of rays,  
 ' From His feet, a burning flood of light  
 ' From His feet, a burning flood of light  
 ' From His feet, a burning flood of light

# MISCELLANIES.

- Like ~~the~~ tide summer ~~and~~ the rays appear,
- Uncon-fable, magnificent, and near! 30
- What scene of agony the garden brings!
- The cup of gall! the suppliant KING of
- KINGS!
- The crown of thorns! the ~~spots~~ that felt Him die!
- These, languid in the sketch, unfinish'd lie, 34
- There, from the dead, centurions see Him rise,
- See! but struck down with horrible surprise!
- As the first glory seem'd a sun at noon,
- This casts the silver splendor of the moon.
- Here peopled day th' ascending GOD surveys!
- The glory varies as the myriads gaze! 60
- Now soften'd, like a sun at distance seen,
- When through a cloud bright-glancing, yet se-
- rene!
- Now fast increasing to the crowd amaz'd,
- Like some vast ~~mass~~ high in ether rais'd!
- My labor yon high-vaulted altar stains 65
- With dyes that emulate ethereal plains:
- The convex glass, which in that opening glows,
- Mid circling rays a picture ~~of~~ YOUR shows!
- Bright it collects the beams, which, trembling all,
- Back from the GOD a shining radiance fall:
- Lightning the scene beneath, a storm divides! 71
- Where saints, clouds, seraphs, intermingled shine!
- Here water-falls, that play melodious sound,
- Like a sweet organ, swell a lofty sound;
- The solemn notes bid earthly passions cease! 75
- Lull all my cares, and lift my soul to Thee.

*Canto II.*      *THE WANDERER.*

' This monumental marble—this I rear  
 ' To one—Oh! ever mourn'd!—Oh! ever dear.  
 He stopp'd—pathetic sighs the pause supply, 79  
 And the prompt tear starts, quiv'ring on his eye!  
 I look'd—two columns near the wall were seen,  
 An imag'd beauty stretch'd at length between.  
 Near the wept fair, her harp Cecilia strung,  
 Leaning from high a list'ning angel hung;  
 Friendship, whose figure at the feet remains, 85  
 A phoenix with irradiate crest sustains:  
 This grac'd one palm, while one extends t' impart  
 Two foreign hands that clasp a burning heart:  
 A pendent veil two hov'ring seraphs raise,  
 Which op'ning heav'n upon the roof displays; 90  
 And two, benevolent, less distant, hold  
 A vase, collective of perfumes uproll'd:  
 These from the heart, by Friendship hold, arise,  
 Odorous as incense gath'ring in the skies.  
 In the fond pelican is love express, 95  
 Who opens to her young her tender breast.  
 Two mated warthogs hang in air,  
 One by a falcon's talon in wild despair  
 The hermit cries—alas! alas! destroys  
 ' The tender comfort of my times and joys.' 100  
 Again soft tears upon his eyelid hung,  
 Against which d sounds dy'd, quiv'ring on his tongue.  
 Too well his pining throat thought I know;  
 Too well his silence tells the story'd woe;  
 To his anguish, to his tears, reply! 105  
 I sway but all the comb a wat'ry eye!

MICHAEL

'Next on the wall her scenes of life I gaz'd,  
 The firm back-leaning, by a globe half-rai'd;  
 Cherub a proffer'd crown of glory show,  
 Ey'd wistful by th' admiring fair below. 110  
 In action eloquent, dispos'd her hands,  
 One shows her breast, in rapture one expands!  
 This the fond hermit seiz'd—o'er all his soul  
 The soft, wild, wailing, am'rous passion stole!  
 In stedfast gaze his eyes her aspect keep, 115  
 Then turn away, awhile dejected weep;  
 Then he reverts them; but reverts in vain,  
 Dimm'd with the swelling grief that streams again.  
 'Where now is my philosophy?' he cries,  
 'My joy, hope, reason, my Olympia dies! 120  
 'Why did I e'er that prime of blessings know?  
 'Was it, ye cruel Fates! t'imbitter woe?  
 'Why would your bolts not level first my head?  
 'Why must I live to weep Olympia dead?  
 '—Sir, I had once a wife!—fair bloom'd her  
 'youth, 125  
 'Her form was beauty, and her soul was truth!  
 'Oh! she was dear! how what words can say?  
 'She dies!—my heart at once is snatch'd away!  
 'Ah! what avails that by a mother's care  
 'I rose a wealthy and illustrious heir? 130  
 'That, early in my youth I learn'd to prove  
 'Th' instructive, pleasing, academic glow?  
 'That, in the senate eloquence was mine?  
 'That, valor gave me in the field of mine?  
 'That, love show'd blessings too—far more than all  
 'High-rapt Ambition e'er could happy call? 136

- ' Ah !—what are these, which ev'n the wise adore ?  
 ' Lost is my pride !—Olympia is no more !  
 ' Had I, ye persecuting Pow'rs ! been born  
 ' The world's cold pity, or at best its scorn ; 140  
 ' Of wealth, of rank, of kindred warmth bereft,  
 ' To want, to shame, to ruthless censure left,  
 ' Patience or pride to this relief supplies,  
 ' But a lost wife !—there ! there distraction lies  
     ' Now three sad years I yield me all to grief,  
 ' And fly the hated comfort of relief : 146  
 ' Though rich, great, young, I leave a pompous  
     ' seat ;  
 ' (My brother's now) to seek some dark retreat ;  
 ' Mid cloister'd solitary tombs I stray,  
 ' Despair and Horror lead the cheerless way ! 150  
 ' My sorrow grows to such a wild excess,  
 ' Life, injur'd life ! must wish the passion less.  
 ' Olympia !—My Olympia's lost ! (I cry)  
 ' Olympia's lost, the hollow vaults reply !  
 ' Louder I make my lamentable moan, 155  
 ' The swelling echoes ~~like~~ like me to groan ;  
 ' The ghosts to scream, as through lone aisles they  
     ' sweep,  
 ' The shrines to shudder and the saints to weep !  
     ' Now grief and rage by gath'ring sighs suppress,  
 ' Swell my full heart and heave my lab'ring breast ;  
 ' With struggling starts each vital spring they strain,  
 ' And strike the sou'ring fabric of my brain : 162  
 ' O'er my weak spirits frowns a vap'ry scene,  
 ' Woe's dark retreat, the sadd'ning mass of spleen !

- ' A deep damp gloom<sup>5</sup> spreads the murky cell ;  
 ' Here pining thoughts and secret terrors dwell :  
 ' Here learn the great unreal wants to feign,  
 ' Unpleasing truths here mortify the vain ;  
 ' Here Learning, blinded first, and then beguil'd,  
 ' Looks dark as Ignorance, as Frenzy wild ! 170  
 ' Here first Credulity on Reason won,  
 ' And here false Zeal mysterious rants begun :  
 ' Here Love impearls each moment with a tear,  
 ' And Superstition owes to Spleen her fear !  
     ' Fantastic lightnings, through the dreary way,  
 ' In swift short signals flash the bursting day ! 176  
 ' Above, beneath, across, around, they fly !  
 ' A dire deception strikes the mental eye !  
 ' By the blue fire, pale phantoms grin severe,  
 ' Shrill Fancy's echoes wound th' affrighted ear,  
 ' Air banish'd, spirits flag in fogs profound, 181  
 ' And, all obscene, shed baneful damps around ;  
 ' Now whispers, trembling in some feeble wind,  
 ' Sigh out prophetic fears, and freeze the mind !  
     ' Loud laughs the hag !—she mocks complaint  
         away, 185  
 ' Unroofs the den, and jets in more than day :  
 ' Swarms of wild fancies, wing'd in various flight,  
 ' Seek emblematic shades and mystic light :  
 ' Some drive with rapid steeds the shining car,  
 ' These nod from thrones ; those thunder in the war ;  
 ' Till tir'd, they turn from the delusive show, 191  
 ' Start from wild joy, and fix in stupor woe !  
     ' Flare the lone hour a blank of life displays,  
 ' Till now bad thoughts a fiend more active raise ;

- ' A fiend in evil moments ever nigh! 195  
 ' Death in her hand, and frenzy in her eye!  
 ' Her eye all red and sunk—a robe she wore  
 ' With life's calamities embroider'd o'er;  
 ' A mirror in one hand collective shows,  
 ' Vary'd and multiply'd, that group of woes: 200  
 ' This endless foe to gen'rous toil and pain,  
 ' Lolls on a couch for ease, but lolls in vain:  
 ' She muses o'er her woe-embroider'd vest,  
 ' And self-abhorrence heightens in her breast.  
 ' To shun her care the force of sleep she tries,  
 ' Still wakes her mind, though slumbers close her  
     ' eyes; 206  
 ' She dreams, starts, rises, stalks from place to place,  
 ' With restless, thoughtful, interrupted pace;  
 ' Now eyes the sun, and curses ev'ry ray,  
 ' Now the green ground, where color fades away:—  
 ' Dim spectres dance:—again her eye she rears;  
 ' Then, from the blood-shot ball, wipes purpled  
     ' tears; 212  
 ' Then presses hard her brow, with mischief fraught,  
 ' Her brow half bursts with agony of thought:  
 " From me," she cries, " pale Wretch! thy com-  
     " fort claim, 215  
 " Born of Despair, and Suicide my name!  
 " Why should thy life a moment's pain endure?  
 " Here ev'ry object proffers grief a cure."  
 ' She points where leaves of hemlock black'ning  
     ' shoot;  
 " Fear not! pluck I eat," said she, " the sov'reign  
     " root! c 2 220

- " Then Death revers'd shall bear his ebon lance,  
 " Soft o'er thy sight shall swim the shadowy trance ;  
 " Or leap yon rock, possess a wat'ry grave,  
 " And leave wild sorrow to the wind and wave !  
 " Or mark—this poniard thus from this'ry frees !"  
 " She wounds her breast—the guilty steel I seize.  
 " Strait where she struck a smoking spring of gore  
 " Wells from the wound, and floats the crimson'd  
     " floor.  
 " She faints, she fades!—calm thoughts the deed  
     " revolve,  
 " And now, unstartling fix the dire resolve ; 230  
 " Death drops his terrors, and, with charming wiles,  
 " Winning and kind, like my Olympia smiles !  
 " He points the passage to the seats divine,  
 " Where poets, heroes, sainted lovers shine.'  
 " *I came Olympia!—my rear'd arm extends ; 235*  
 " *Half to my breast the threat'ning point descends ;*  
 " *Strait, thunder rocks the land, new lightnings play,*  
 " *When, lo! a voice resounds'—“ Arise ! away !*  
 " *Away ! nor murmur at th' afflictive rod, 239*  
 " *Nor tempt the vengeance of an angry GOD !*  
 " *Fly'st thou from Providence for vain relief?*  
 " *Such ill-sought ease shall draw avenging grief.*  
 " *Honor, the more obstructed, stronger shines,*  
 " *And zeal, by persecution's rage, refines.*  
 " *By woe the soul to daring action swells ; 245*  
 " *By woe in painless patience it excels ;*  
 " *From patience prudent, dear, experience springs,*  
 " *And traces knowledge through the course of*  
     " things.



" Thence hope is form'd, thence fortitude, thence  
 " Renown—whate'er men covet and caress." 250

The vanish'd fiend thus sent a hollow voice,  
 " Wouldst thou be happy? strait be death thy  
 " choice.

" How mean are those who passively complain,  
 " While active souls, more free, their fetters strain?  
 " Though knowledge thine, hope, fortitude, success,  
 " Renown—whate'er men covet and caress. 256

" On earth, success must in its turn give way,  
 " And ev'n perfection introduce decay;  
 " Never the world of spirits thus—their rest  
 " Untouch'd, entire,—once happy, ever blest!"

Earnest the heav'nly voice responsive cries,  
 " Oh! listen not to subtilty unwise; 262

" Thy guardian saint, who mourns thy hapless fate,  
 " Heav'n grants to prop thy virtue ere too late.

" Know, if thou wilt thy dear-lov'd wife deplore,  
 " Olympia waits thee on a foreign shore, 266

" There, in a cell, thy last remains be spent;  
 " Away! deceive Despair, and find Content!"

" I heard,—obey'd,—nor more of Fate com-  
 " plain'd; 269

" Long seas I measur'd, and this mountain gain'd:

" Soon to a yawning rift Chance turn'd my way,

" A den it prov'd where a huge serpent lay;

" Flame-ey'd he lay:—he rages now for food,

" Meets my first glance, and meditates my blood.

" His bulk, in many a gather'd orb uproll'd, 275

" Rears spire on spire. His scales, back'd with  
 " gold,

- Stand burnish'd in the sun. Such height they  
 ' gain,  
 ' They dart green lustre on the distant main.  
 ' Now wreath'd in dreadful slope, he stoops his  
 ' crest,  
 ' Furious to fix on my unshielded breast! 280  
 ' Just as he springs my sabre smites the foe;  
 ' Headless he falls beneath th' unerring blow!  
 ' Wrath yet remains, though strength his fabric  
 ' leaves,  
 ' And the meant hiss the gaping mouth deceives,  
 ' The length'ning trunk slow-loosens ev'ry fold,  
 ' Lingers in life, then stretches stiff and cold. 286  
 ' Just as th' invet'rate son of mischief ends,  
 ' Comes a white dove, and near the post descends:  
 ' I hail this omen; all bad passions cease,  
 ' Like the slain snake, and all within is peace.  
 ' Next, to religion this plain roof I raise, 291  
 ' In duteous rites my hallow'd tapers blaze;  
 ' I bid due incense on my altars smoke,  
 ' Then at this tomb my promis'd love invoke.  
 ' She hears, she comes!—My heart what raptures  
 ' 295  
 ' All my Olympia sparkles in the form!  
 ' No pale, wan, livid, mark of death she bears;  
 ' Each roseate look a quick'ning transport wears:  
 ' A robe of light, high wrought, her shape invests,  
 ' Unseen'd the swelling beauty of her breasts: 300  
 ' Her auburn hair each flowing ring resumes,  
 ' In her fair hand Love's branch of myrtle blooms;

' Silent a while each well-known charm I trace,  
 ' Then thus, '—while nearer she avoids th' embrace,  
 ' Thou dear deceit!—must I a shade pursue? 305  
 ' Dazzled I gaze—thou swimm'st before my view!  
 ' Dipp'd in ethereal dews, her bough divine  
 ' Sprinkles my eyes, which, strengthen'd, bear the  
 ' shine;

' Still thus I urge, (for still the shadowy bliss 309  
 ' Shuns the warm grasp, nor yields the tender kiss,)  
 ' Oh! fly not—fade not; listen to Love's call:  
 ' She lives! no more I'm man!—I'm spirit all!  
 ' Then let me snatch thee!—press thee! take me  
 ' whole! 313

' Oh! close!—yet closer!—closer to my soul!  
 ' Twice round her waist my eager arms entwinn'd,  
 ' And twice decciv'd my frenzy clasp'd the wind!  
 ' Then thus I rav'd—Behold thy husband kneel,  
 ' And judge, O judge! what agonies I feel!  
 ' Oh! be no longer, if unkind, thus fair! 319

' Take Horror's shape, and fright me to despair!  
 ' Rather than thus, un pitying, see my moan,  
 ' Far rather frown, and fix me here in stone!  
 ' But mock not thus!—"Alas! (the charmer said,  
 Smiling, and in her smile soft radiance play'd)

" Alas! no more eluded strength employ 325  
 " To clasp a shade!—what more is mortal joy?  
 " Man's bliss is, like his knowledge, but unrais'd,  
 " One, ignorance, the other pain, disquiet;  
 " Thou wert (had all thy wish been instantly)  
 " Supremely curs'd from being greatly bless'd! 330

" For, oh ! so fair, so dear, was I to thee,  
 " Thou hadst forgot thy GOD to worship me ;  
 " This He forgave, and snatch'd me to the tomb ;  
 " Above I flourish in unfading bloom.  
 " Think me not lost ; for thee I Heav'n implore,  
 " Thy guardian angel, though a will no more. 336  
 " I, when abstracted from this world you seem,  
 " Hint the pure thought, and frame the heav'nly  
     " dream ;

" Close at thy side, when morning streaks the air,  
 " In Music's voice I wake thy mind to pray'r. 340  
 " By me thy hymns, like purest incense rise,  
 " Fragrant with grace, and pleasing to the Skies.  
 " And when that form shall from its clay refine,  
 " (That only bar betwixt my soul and thine)  
 " When thy lov'd spirit mounts to realms of light,  
 " Then shall Olympia aid thy earliest flight ; 346  
 " Mingled with mine in raptures that aspire  
 " Beyond all pain, all sense, and all desire."

' She ended ; still such sweetness dwells behind,  
 ' Th' enchanting voice still warbles in my mind :  
 ' But, lo ! th' unbody'd vision fleets away— 351  
 ' —Stay, my Olympia—I conjure thee, stay !  
 ' Yet stay—for thee my mem'ry learns to smart ;  
 ' Sure ev'ry vein contains a bleeding heart !  
 ' Sooner shall splendor leave the blaze of day 355  
 ' Than love so pure, so vast, as mine decay :  
 ' From the same heav'nly source its lustre came,  
 ' And glows immortal with congenial flame.

- ' Ah!—let me not with fires neglected burn :  
' Sweet mistress of my soul ! return, return. 360  
' Alas !—she's fled—I traverse now the place  
' Where my enamor'd thought her footsteps trace :  
' Now o'er the tomb I bend my drooping head,  
' There tears, the eloquence of sorrow, shed ;  
' Sighs choke my words, unable to express 365  
' The pangs, the throbs, of speechless tenderness.  
' Not with more ardent, more transparent flame  
' Call dying saints on their Creator's name  
' Than I on her's ;—but through yon yielding  
' door 369  
' Glides a new phantom o'er th' illumin'd floor :  
' The roof swift kindles from the beaming ground,  
' And floods of living lustre flame around :  
' In all the majesty of light array'd,  
' Awful it shines !—'tis Cato's honor'd shade !  
' As I the heav'nly visitant pursue, 375  
' Sublimer glory opens to my view.  
' He speaks—But, oh ! what words shall dare re-  
' peat  
' His thoughts !—they leave me fir'd with patriot  
' More than poetic raptures now I feel. [heav'n,  
' And own that godlike passion, public zeal ! 380  
' But from my frailty it receives a stain,  
' I grow, unlike my great inspirer, vain,  
' And burn, once more, the busy world to know.  
' And would in scenes of action foremost glow ;  
' Where proud Ambition darts her dazzling rays,  
' Where coronets and crowns attractive blaze, 386

- ' When my Olympia leaves the realms above,  
 ' And lures me back so solitary love.  
 ' She tells me truth, prefers an humble state,  
 ' That genuine greatness shuns the being great ;  
 ' That mean are those, who false-term'd honor  
     ' prize, 391  
 ' Whose fabrics from their country's ruin rise ;  
 ' Who look the traitor, like the patriot, fair :  
 ' Who, to enjoy the vineyard, wrong the heir.  
     ' I hear!—through all my veins new transports  
     ' roll ; 395  
 ' I gaze!—warm love comes rushing on my soul :  
 ' Ravish'd I gaze!—again her charms decay ;  
 ' Again my manhood to my grief gives way !  
 ' Cato returns—Zeal takes her course to reign !  
 ' But zeal is in ambition lost again ! 400  
 ' I'm now the slave of fondness—now of pride !  
 ' —By turns they conquer and by turns subside !  
 ' These balanc'd each by each, the golden mean,  
 ' Betwixt them found, gives happiness serene ;  
 ' This I'll enjoy!—He ended!—I reply'd, 405  
 " O Hermit! thou art worth, severely try'd !  
 " But had not innate grief produc'd thy woes,  
 " Men, barbarous men ! had prey'd on thy repose.  
 " When seeking joy, we seldom sorrow miss,  
 " And often : 'ry points the path to bliss. 410  
 " The soil, in a worthy of the thrifty swain,  
 " Is wounded thus, ere trusted with the grain;  
 " The struggling grain must work, obscure, its way,  
 " Ere the first green springs upward to the day.

"Upsprung, such weedlike coarseness it betrays,  
 "Flocks, on th' abandon'd blade permissive graze,  
 "Then shoots the wealth, from imperfection clear,  
 "And thus a grateful harvest crowns the year."

## CANTO III.

THUS free, our social time from morning flows,  
 Till rising shades attempt the day to close.  
 Thus my new friend: 'Behold the light's decay;  
 'Back to yon city let me point thy way.  
 'South-west, behind yon hill, the sloping sun 5  
 'To ocean's verge, his fluent course has run;  
 'His parting eyes a wat'ry radiance shed,  
 'Glance through the vale, and tip the mountain's  
     'head,  
 'To which oppos'd the shadowy gulfs below,  
 'Beauteous, reflect the party-color'd snow. 10  
     'Now dance the stars where Vesper leads the  
     'way,  
 'Yet all faint glimm'ring with remains of day;  
 'Orient the queen of Night smits her dawn,  
 'And throws, unseen, her mantle o'er the lawn:  
 'Up the blue steep her crimson orb now shines,  
 'Now on the mountain top her arm reclines. 16  
 'In a red crescent seen: her moon now gleams  
 'Like Venus, quiv'ring in reflecting streams:  
 'Yet redd'ning, yet round burning up the air,  
 'From the white cliff her fort slow-rising shrouds

MISCELLANIES.

- \* See ! flames condens'd now vary her attire, 21  
 \* Her face a broad circumference of fire :  
 \* Dark firs seem kindled in nocturnal blaze ;  
 \* Through ranks of pines her broken lustre plays ;  
 \* Here glares, there brown-projecting shade bestows,  
 \* And, glitt'ring, sports upon the spangled snows.  
 \* Now silver turn her beams !—yon den they  
 \* gain ;  
 \* The big rous'd lion shakes his brindled mane.  
 \* Fierce, fleet gaunt monsters, all prepar'd for gore,  
 \* Rend woods, vales, rocks, with wide-resounding  
 \* roar. 30  
 \* O dire presage !—But fear not thou my Friend !  
 \* Our steps the guardians of the just attend.  
 \* Homeward I'll wait thee on—And now survey  
 \* How men and spirits chase the night away ! 34  
 \* You nymphs and swains in am'rous mirth advance ;  
 \* To breathing music moves the circling dance :  
 \* Here the bold youth in deeds advent'rous glow,  
 \* Skimming in rapid sleds the crackling snow.  
 \* Not when Tydides won the fun'ral race,  
 \* Shot his light car along in swifter pace. 40  
 \* Here the glaz'd way with iron feet they dart,  
 \* And glide, well-pois'd, like Mercuries in air,  
 \* There crowds, with stable tread and levell'd eye  
 \* Lift and dismiss the quoits that whirling fly.  
 \* With force superior, not with skill so true, 44  
 \* The pond'rous disk from Grecian sinews flow.  
 \* Where neighbouring hills some cloudy steep sus-  
 \* tain,  
 \* Freed o'er the brutes vale a peninsular plain,



' Cross the roof'd hollow rolls the massy round,  
 ' The crack'd ice rattles, and the rocks resound !  
 ' Censures, disputes, and laughs, alternate rise, 51  
 ' And deaf'ning clangor thunders up the skies.'

Thus, amid crowded images, serene,  
 From hour to hour we pass'd from scene to scene :  
 Fast wore the night : full long we pac'd our way ;  
 Vain steps ! the city yet far distant lay : 56

While thus the Hermit, ere my wonder spoke,  
 Mcthought, with new amusement, silence broke :  
 ' Yon amber-hu'd cascade, which fleecy flies  
 ' Through racks, and strays along the trackless  
 ' skies, 60

' To frolic fairies marks the mazy ring ;  
 ' Forth to the dance from little cells they spring,  
 ' Measur'd to pipe or harp—and next they stand,  
 ' Marshall'd beneath the moon, a radiant band !  
 ' In frost-work now delight the sportive kind, 65  
 ' Now court wild fancy in the whistling wind.'

' Hark ! the funereal bell's deep-sounding toll  
 ' To bliss, from mis'ry, calls some righteous soul !  
 ' Just freed from life, life swift-ascending fire, 69  
 ' Glorious it mounts, and gleams from yonder spire !  
 ' Light claps its wings !—it views, with pitying  
 ' sight,

' The friendly mourner pay the pious rite ;  
 ' The plume high wrought, that black'ning nods  
 ' in air,

' The slow-pac'd weeping pomp, the solemn psalm,

MISCELLANIES.

- ' The decent tomb, the verse that Sorrow gives, 75  
 ' Where to remembrance sweet fair Virtue lives.  
 ' Now to mid heav'n the whiten'd moon inclines,  
 ' And shades contract, mark'd out in clearer lines,  
 ' With noiseless gloom the plains are delug'd o'er;  
 ' See!—from the north what streaming meteors  
 ' pour! 80  
 ' Beneath Bootes springs the radiant train,  
 ' And quiver through the axle of his wain.  
 ' O'er altars thus, impainted, we behold  
 ' Half-circling glories shoot in rays of gold.  
 ' Cross ether swift elance the vivid fires! 85  
 ' As swift again each pointed flame retires!  
 ' In Fancy's eye encount'ring armies glare,  
 ' And sanguine ensigns wave unfurl'd in air!  
 ' Hence the weak vulgar deem impending fate,  
 ' A monarch ruin'd, or unpeopled state. 90  
 ' Thus, convert, dreadful visitants! arise  
 ' To ~~them~~ wild omens! science to the wise!  
 ' These mark the comet to the sun incline,  
 ' While deep-red flames around its centre shine!  
 ' While its fierce rear a winding trail displays, 95  
 ' And lights all ether with the sweepy blaze!  
 ' Or when, compell'd, it flies the torrid zone,  
 ' And shoots by worlds unnumber'd and unknown;  
 ' By worlds, whose people, all aghast with fear,  
 ' May view that minister of vengeance near! 100  
 ' Tell now, the transient glow, remote and lost,  
 ' Decays, and darkness 'mid involving frost!

' Or when it, sun-ward, drinks rich beams again,  
' And burns imperious on th' ethereal plain,  
' The learn'd one, curious, eyes it from afar, 105  
' Sparkling through night a new illustrious star.'

The moon, descending, saw us now pursue  
The various talk—the city near in view.

' Here from still life,' he cries, ' avert thy sight,  
' And mark what deeds adorn or shame the night ;  
' But, heedful, each immodest prospect fly, 111  
' Where Decency forbids Inquiry's eye :  
' Man were not man without love's wanton fire,  
' But reason's glory is to quell desire.  
' What are thy fruits, O Lust! short blessings,  
' bought 115

' With long remorse, the seed of bitter thought ;  
' Perhaps some babe to dire diseases born,  
' Doom'd for another's crimes through life to mourn,  
' Or murder'd to preserve a mother's fame, 119  
' Or cast obscure, the child of want and shame !  
' False pride ! what vices on our conduct steal,  
' From the world's eye one frailty to conceal !  
' Ye cruel mothers !—Soft ! those words command ;  
' So near shall Cruelty and Mother stand ?  
' Can the dove's bosom, snakey venom draw ? 125  
' Can its foot sharpen, like the vulture's claw ?  
' Can the fond goat, or tender fleetly dam,  
' Howl like the wolf, to tear the kid or lamb ?  
' Yes, there are mothers—There I fear'd his aim,  
And, conscious, trembled at the coming name ;

Then, with a sigh, his issuing words oppos'd ; 131  
 Strait with a falling tear the speech he clos'd.  
 That tenderness which ties of blood deny  
 Nature repaid me from a stranger's eye. 134.  
 Pale grew my cheeks !—But now to gen'ral views  
 Our converse turns, which ~~thus~~ my friend renews.  
     ' Yon mansion, made by beaming tapers gay,  
     ' Drowns the dim night, and counterfeits the day ;  
     ' From lumin'd windows glancing on the eye,  
     ' Around, athwart, the frisking shadows fly : 140  
     ' There midnight riot spreads illusive joys,  
     ' And fortune, health, and dearer time, destroys ;  
     ' Soon Death's dark agent to luxuriant Ease  
     ' Shall wake sharp warnings in some fierce disease.  
     ' O Man ! thy fabric's like a well-form'd state ;  
     ' Thy thoughts, first-rank'd, were sure design'd the  
         ' great ; 146  
     ' Passions, plebeians are, which faction raise ;  
     ' Wine, like pour'd oil, excites the raging blaze ;  
     ' Then giddy Anarchy's rude triumphs rise ;  
     ' Then sov'reign Reason from her empire flies :  
     ' That ruler once depos'd, Wisdom and Wit, 151  
     ' To Noise and Folly, Place and Pow'r submit ;  
     ' Like a frail bark the weaken'd mind is tost,  
     ' Unsteer'd, unbalanc'd, till its wealth is lost.  
     ' The miser-spirit, eyes the spendthrift heir,  
     ' And mourns, too late, effects of sordid care : 156  
     ' His treasures fly to cloy each fawning slave,  
     ' Yet grudge a stone to dignify his grave !

- ' For this low thoughted craft his life employ'd ;  
 ' For this, though wealthy, he no wealth enjoy'd ;  
 ' For this he grip'd the poor, and alms deny'd,  
 ' Unfriended liv'd, and unlamented dy'd.  
 ' Yet smile, griev'd shade ! when that unprosp'rous  
     ' store  
 ' Fast lessens, when gay hours return no more ;  
 ' Smile at thy heir, beholding, in his fall, 165  
 ' Men once oblig'd, like him, ungrateful all !  
 ' Then thought-inspiring woe his heart shall mend,  
 ' And prove his only wise, unflatt'ring friend.  
     ' Folly exhibits thus unmanly sport, 169  
 ' While plotting Mischief keeps reserv'd her court.  
 ' Lo ! from that mount, in blasting sulphur broke,  
 ' Stream flames voluminous enwrapp'd with smoke !  
 ' In chariot-shape they whirl up yonder tow'r,  
 ' Lean on its brow, and, like destruction, low'r !  
 ' From the black depth a fiery legion springs ; 175  
 ' Each bold bad spectre claps her sounding wing :  
 ' And strait beneath a summon'd trait'rous band,  
 ' On horror bent, in dark convention stand !  
 ' From each fiend's mouth a ruddy vapor flows,  
 ' Glides through the roof, and o'er the council  
     ' glows : 180  
 ' The villains, close beneath th' infection pent,  
 ' Feel, all possess'd, their rising walls ferment, —  
 ' And burn with faction, hate, and vengeful ire, —  
 ' For rapine, blood, and devastation dire ?  
 ' But Justice marks their ways ; she waves in air 185  
 ' The sword high-threat'ning like a comet's glare.

- ' While here dark Villany herself deceives,  
 ' There studious Honesty our view relieves.  
 ' A feeble taper, from yon lonesome room,  
 ' Scatt'ring thin rays, just glimmers through the  
     ' gloom : 190  
 ' There sits the sapient hard in useful mood,  
 ' And glows impassion'd for his country's good ;  
 ' All the bright spirits of the just, combin'd,  
 ' Inform, refine, and prompt his tow'ring mind !  
 ' He takes the gifted quill from hands divine, 195  
 ' Around his temples rays refulgent shine !  
 ' Now rapt, now more than man !—I see him climb  
 ' To view this speck of earth from worlds sublime !  
 ' I see him now o'er nature's works preside !  
 ' How clear the vision ! and the scene how wide !  
 ' Let some a name by adulation raise, 201  
 ' Or scandal, meaner than a venal praise,  
 " My Muse," he cries, " a nobler prospect view !  
 " Through Fancy's wilds some moral's point pur-  
     " sue,  
 " From dark deception clear-drawn truth display,  
 " As from black Chaos rose resplendent day ; 206  
 " Awake Compassion, and bid Terror rise ;  
 " Bid humble sorrows strike superior eyes ;  
 " So pamper'd Pow'r, unconscious of distress,  
 " May see, be mov'd, and, being mov'd, redress."  
     ' Ye Traitors ! Tyrants ! fear his stinging lay ;  
 ' Ye Pow'r's unlov'd, unpity'd in decay !— 212  
 ' But know, to you, sweet-blossom'd Fame he  
     ' brings,  
 ' Ye Heroes, Patriots, and paternal Kings !

- ‘ O THOU ! who form’d, who rais’d the poet’s  
‘ art, 215
- ‘ (Voice of THY will !) unerring force impart ;  
‘ If wailing Worth can gen’rous warmth excite,  
‘ If verse can gild instruction with delight,  
‘ Inspire his honest Muse with orient flame,  
‘ To rise, to dare, to reach the noblest aim ! 220  
‘ But, O my Friend ! mysterious is our fate ;  
‘ How mean his fortune, though his mind elate !  
‘ Æneas-like he passes through the crowd,  
‘ Unsought, unseen, beneath misfortune’s cloud !  
‘ Or seen with slight regard ; unprais’d his name ;  
‘ His after-honor, and our after-shame. 226  
‘ The doom’d desert to Av’rice stands confest,  
‘ Her eyes averted are, and steel’d her breast :  
‘ Envy asquint the future wonder eyes ;  
‘ Bold Insult, pointing, hoots him as he flies ; 230  
‘ While coward Censure, skill’d in darker ways,  
‘ Hints sure detraction in dissembled praise !  
‘ Hunger, thirst, nakedness, there grievous fall !  
‘ Unjust derision too !—that tongue of gall !  
‘ Slow comes Relief, with no mild charms endu’d,  
‘ Usher’d by Pride, and by Reproach pursu’d ; 236  
‘ Forc’d Pity meets him with a cold respect,  
‘ Unkind as Scorn, ungen’rous as Neglect.  
‘ Yet, suff’ring Worth ! thy fortitude will  
‘ shine ; 239
- ‘ Thy foes are Virtue’s, and her friends are thine !  
‘ Patience is thine, and Peace thy days shall crown,  
‘ Thy treasure prudence, and thy claim renown ;

- ' Myriads unborn shall mourn thy hapless fate,  
 ' And myriads grow by thy example great !  
 ' Hark ! from the watch-tow'r rolls the trumpet's  
     ' sound, 245  
 ' Sweet through still night, proclaiming safety  
     round !  
 ' Yon shade illustrious, quits the realms of rest,  
 ' To aid some orphan, of its race, distressed,—  
 ' Safe winds him through the subterraneous way,  
 ' That mines yon mansion, grown with ruin gray,  
 ' And marks the wealthy unsuspected ground, 251  
 ' Where, green with rust, long-bury'd coins abound.  
 ' This plaintive ghost, from earth when newly fled,  
 ' Saw those the living trusted, wrong the dead ;  
 ' He saw, by fraud abus'd, the lifeless hand 255  
 ' Sign the false deed that alienates his land ;  
 ' Heard, on his fame injurious censure thrown,  
 ' And mourn'd the beggar'd orphan's bitter groan :  
 ' Commission'd now the falsehood he reveals,  
 ' To justice soon th' enabled heir appeals ; 260  
 ' Soon by this wealth are costly pleas maintain'd,  
 ' And by discover'd truth lost right regain'd.  
     ' But why (may some inquire) why kind success,  
 ' Since mystic Heav'n gives mis'ry oft to bless ?  
 ' Though mis'ry leads to happiness and truth, 265  
 ' Unequal to the load, this languid youth,  
 ' Unstrengthen'd virtue scarce his bosom fir'd,  
 ' And fearful from his growing wants retir'd.  
 ' Oh ! let none censure, (if untry'd by grief,  
 ' If, amidst woe, untempted by relief) 270



- ' He stoop'd reluctant to low arts of shame,  
 ' Which then, ev'n then ! he scorn'd, and blush'd  
   ' to name.  
 ' Heav'n sees and makes th' imperfect Worth its  
   ' care,  
 ' And cheers the trembling heart unform'd to bear.  
 ' Now rising fortune elevates his mind, 275  
 ' He shines unclouded, and adorns mankind.  
   ' So in some engine that denies a vent  
 ' If unrespiring is some creature pent,  
 ' It sickens, droops, and pants, and gasps for breath,  
 ' Sad o'er the sight swim shadowy mists of death :  
 ' If then kind air pours pow'rful in again, 281  
 ' New heats, new pulses, quicken ev'ry vein ;  
 ' From the clear'd, lifted, life-rekindled eye  
 ' Dispers'd, the dark and dampy vapors fly.  
   ' From trembling tombs the ghosts of greatness  
   ' rise, 285  
 ' And o'er their bodies hang with wistful eyes,  
 ' Or discontented stalk, and mix their howls  
 ' With howling wolves, their screams with scream-  
   ' ing owls.  
   ' The interval 'twixt night and morn is nigh,  
 ' Winter more nitrous chills the shadow'd sky :  
 ' Springs with soft heats no more give borders  
   ' green, 291  
 ' Nor smoking breathe along the whiten'd scene ;  
 ' While steamy currents, sweet in prospect, charm  
 ' Like veins blue-winding on a fair one's arm.

- ' Now Sleep to Fancy parts with half his power,  
 ' And broken slumbers drag the restless hour: 296  
 ' The murder'd seems alive, and ghastly glares,  
 ' And in dire dreams the conscious murd'rer scares;  
 ' Shews the yet-spouting wound, th' ensanguin'd  
   ' floor, 299  
 ' The walls yet smoking with the spatter'd gore;  
 ' Or shrieks to dozing Justice, and reveals  
 ' The deed which fraudulent art from day conceals;  
 ' The delve obscene, where no suspicion pries,  
 ' Where the disfigur'd corse unshrouded lies; 304  
 ' The sure, the striking proof, so strong maintain'd,  
 ' Pale Guilt starts self-convicted when arraign'd.  
   ' These spirits, Treason of its pow'r, divest,  
 ' And turn the peril from the patriot's breast:  
 ' Those solemn thoughts inspire, or bright descend  
 ' To snatch a vision sweet the dying friend. 310  
   ' But we deceive the gloom; the matin bell  
 ' Summons to pray'r!—Now breaks th' enchanter's  
   ' spell!  
 ' And now—But yon fair spirit's form survey!  
 ' 'Tis she!—Olympia beckons me away! 314  
 ' I haste!—I fly!—Adieu!—and when you see  
 ' The youth who bleeds with fondness, think on me:  
 ' Tell him my Tale; and be his pain carest;  
 ' By love I tortur'd was, by love I'm blest.  
 ' When worshipp'd woman we entranc'd behold,  
 ' We praise the MAKER in His fairest mould;  
 ' The pride of nature, harmony combin'd, 321  
 ' And light immortal to the soul refin'd!

' Depriv'd of charming woman! soon we miss  
 ' The prize of friendship and the life of bliss!  
     ' Still through the shades Olympia dawning  
         ' breaks! 325  
 ' What bloom, what brightness, lustres o'er her  
     ' cheeks!  
 ' Again she calls!—I dare no longer stay!  
 ' A kind farewell!—Olympia! I obey.'  
     He turn'd, nor longer in my sight remain'd;  
 The mountain he, I saw the city gain'd. 330

## CANTO IV.

STILL o'er my mind wild Fancy holds her sway!  
 Still on strange visionary land I stray:  
 Now scenes crowd thick, now indistinct appear,—  
 Swift glide the months, and turn the varying year.  
     Near the Bull's horn, light's rising monarch  
 Now on its back the Pleiades he thaws; [draws;  
 From vernal heat, pale Winter forc'd to fly,  
 Northward retires, yet turns a wat'ry eye,—  
 Then with an aguish breath, nips infant blooms,  
 Deprives unfolding spring of rich perfumes,— 10  
 Shakes the slow-circling blood of human race,  
 And in sharp livid looks contracts the face;  
 Now o'er Norwegian hills he strides away,  
 Such slipp'ry paths Ambition's steps betray:  
 Turning, with sighs, for spiral form he sees. 15  
 Which bow obedient to the southern breeze:

Now from yon Zemblan rock his crest he shrouds,  
 Like fame's, obscur'd amid the whit'ning clouds,  
 Thence his lost empire is with tears deplor'd ;  
 Such, tyrants shed o'er liberty restor'd : 20  
 Beneath his eye (that throws malignant light  
 Ten times the measur'd round of mortal sight)  
 A waste, pale glimm'ring, like a moon that wanes,  
 A wild expanse of frozen sea contains :  
 It cracks ! vast floating mountains beat the shore !  
 Far off he hears those icy ruins roar, 26  
 And from the hideous crash distracted flies,  
 Like one who feels his dying infant's cries.  
 Near, and more near, the rushing torrents sound,  
 And one great rift runs through the vast profound  
 Swift as a shooting meteor, groaning loud, 31  
 Like deep-roll'd thunder through a rending cloud.  
 The late dark pole now feels unsetting day ;  
 In hurricanes of wrath he whirls his way ;  
 O'er many a polar Alp to Frost he goes, 35  
 O'er crackling vales, embrown'd with melting  
     snows ;  
 Here bears stalk tenants of the barren space,  
 Few men, unsocial those—a barb'rous race !  
 At length the cave appears, the race is run ;  
 Now he recounts vast conquests lost and won, 40  
 And taleful in th' embrace of Frost remains,  
 Barr'd from our climes, and bound in icy chains.  
 Meanwhile the sun his beams on Cancer throws,  
 Which now beneath his warmest influence glows ;

From glowing Cancer fall'n, the king of day 45  
 Red through the kindling Lion shoots his ray :  
 The tawny harvest pays the earlier plough,  
 And mellowing fruitage loads the bending bough.  
 'Tis day-spring. Now green lab'rinals I frequent,  
 Where Wisdom oft retires to meet Content. 50

The mounting lark her warbling anthem lends ;  
 From note to note the ravish'd soul ascends ;  
 As thus it would the patriarch's ladder climb,  
 By some good angel led to worlds sublime :  
 Oft (legends say) the snake, with waken'd ire, 55  
 Like Envy, rears in many a scaly spire ;  
 Then songsters droop, then yield their vital gore,  
 And innocence and music are no more.

Mild rides the Morn, in orient beauty drest,  
 An azure mantle and a purple vest, 60  
 Which, blown by gales, her gemmy feet display,  
 Her amber tresses negligently gay :  
 Collected, now her rosy hand they fill,  
 And, gently wrung, the pearly dew distil :  
 The songful Zephyrs, and the laughing Hours, 65  
 Breathe sweet, and strew her op'ning way with  
 flow'rs.

The chatt'ring swallows leave their nested care,  
 Each promising return with plenteous fare :  
 So the fond swain, who to the market hies,  
 Stills, with big hopes, his infant's tender cries. 70

Yonder two turtles o'er their callow brood,  
 Hang hovering ere they tack their guileless food ;

Fondly they bill : now to their morning care,  
 Like our first Parents, part the am'rous pair ;  
 But, ah !—a pair no more !—With spreading wings  
 From the high-sounding cliff a vulture springs ; 76  
 Steady he sails along th' aerial gray,  
 Swoops down, and bears yon tim'rous dove away.  
 Start we who, worse than vultures, Nimrods find,  
 Men meditating prey on human-kind ! 80

Wild beasts to gloomy dens replace their way,  
 Where their couch'd young demand the slaughter'd  
 prey :

Rooks from their nodding nests black-swarming fly,  
 And in hoarse uproar tell the fowler nigh,

Now, in his tabernacle rous'd, the Sun 85

Is warn'd the blue, ethereal steep to run ;

While on his couch of floating jasper laid,

From his bright eye, Sleep, calls the dewy shade.

The crystal dome transparent pillars raise,

Whence, beam'd from, sapphires, living azure  
 plays ; 90

The liquid floor, inwrought with pearls divine,

Where all his labors in Mosaic shine :

His coronet a cloud of silver white,

His robe with unconsuming crimson bright,

Vary'd with gems, all heav'n's collected store ! 95

While his loose locks descend, a golden shower,

If to his steps compar'd, we tardy find,

The Gæcian racer, who oustring'd the wind.

Fleet to the glowing race behold him stand !

His quick'ning eyes a quivering radiance dart, 100

And, while this last nocturnal flag is furl'd,  
 Swift into life and motion look the world.  
 The sun-flow'r now averts her blooming cheek  
 From west, to view his eastern lustre break.  
 What gay creative pow'r his presence brings! 105  
 Hills, lawns, lakes, villages—the face of things;  
 All night beneath successive shadows miss'd  
 Instant begins in colors to exist!  
 But absent these from sons of Riot keep,  
 Lost in impure unmeditating sleep. 110  
 T' unlock his fence, the new-ris'n swain prepares,  
 And, ere forth-driv'n, recounts his fleetly carts;  
 When, lo! an ambush'd wolf, with hunger bold,  
 Springs at the prey, and fierce invades the fold,  
 But by the pastor not in vain defy'd, 115  
 Like our atch foe by some celestial guide.

Spread on yon rock the sea-calf I survey,  
 Bask'd in the sun his skin reflects the day;  
 He sees yon tow'r-like ship the waves divide,  
 And slips again beneath the glassy tide. 120

The wat'ry herbs, and shrubs, and vines, and  
 flow'rs  
 Rear their bent heads, o'rchang'd with nightly  
 show'rs.

Hail, glorious Sun! to whose attractive fires  
 The weakn'd vegetative life aspires;  
 The juices wrought by thy directive force 125  
 Through plants and trees perform their genial course,  
 Extend to root, with bark unyielding bind  
 The hearted trunk, or weave the branching rind;

Expand in leaves, in flow'ry blossoms shoot,  
 Bleed in rich gums, and swell in ripen'd fruit. 130  
 From thee, bright universal Pow'r ! began  
 Instinct in brute, and gen'rous love in man.

Talk'd I of love ?—Yon swain, with am'rous air,  
 Soft swells his pipe to charm the rural fair.  
 She milks the flocks, then, list'ning as he plays, 135  
 Steals in the running brook a conscious gaze.

The trout, that deep in winter ooz'd remains,  
 Up-springs, and sunward turns its crimson stains.

The tenants of the warren, vainly chas'd,  
 Now lur'd to ambient fields for green repast, 140  
 Seek their small vaulted labyrinths in vain,  
 Entangling nets betray the skipping train ;  
 Red massacres through their republic fly,  
 And heaps on heaps by ruthless spaniels die. 144

The fisher, who the lonely beech has stray'd,  
 And all the live-long night his net-work spread,  
 Drags in, and bears the loaded snare away,  
 Where flounce, deceiv'd, th' expiring finny prey.

Near Neptune's temple, (Neptune's now no  
 more)

Whose statue plants a trident on the shore, 150  
 In sportive rings the gen'rous dolphins wind,  
 And eye, and think the image human kind ;  
 Dear, pleasant friendship !—See ! the pale com-  
 mands

The vale, and grim as Superstition stands ! 154  
 Time's hand there leaves its print of mossy-green,  
 With hollows carv'd for snakes and birds obscene.



O Gibbs! whose art the solemn fane can raise,  
 Where GOD delights to dwell and man to praise.  
 When moulder'd thus the column falls away,  
 Like some great prince majestic in decay ; 160  
 When Ignorance and scorn the ground shall tread,  
 Where Wisdom tutor'd and devotion pray'd,  
 Where shall thy pompous works our wonder claim?  
 What but the Muse alone preserve thy name?

The sun shines broken through yon arch that  
 rears 165

This once round fabric, half depriv'd by years,  
 Which rose a stately colonnade, and crown'd  
 Encircling pillars, now unfaithful found ;  
 In fragments these the fall of those forebode 169  
 Which nodding, just upheave their crumbling load.  
 High on yon column, which has batter'd stood,  
 Like some stripp'd oak, the grandeur of the wood,  
 The stork inhabits her aerial nest,  
 By her at liberty and peace caress ;  
 She flies the realms that own despotic kings, 175  
 And only spreads o'er free-born states her wings :  
 The roof is now the daw's or raven's haunt,  
 And loathsome toads in the dark-entrance pent,  
 Or snakes, that lurk to snap the heedless fly,  
 And fated bird, that oft comes flutt'ring by. 180

An aqueduct across yon vale is laid,  
 Its channel through a ruin'd arch betray'd ;  
 Whirl'd down a steep, it flies with tortest force,  
 Flashes and roars, and ploughs a devious course.

Attracted mists a golden cloud commence, 185  
 While through high-color'd air strike rays intense :  
 Betwixt two points, which yon steep mountains  
                   show,

Lies a mild bay, to which kind breezes flow.  
 Beneath a grotto, arch'd for calm retreat,  
 Leads length'ning in the rock—be this my seat.  
 Heat never enters here, but Coolness reigns 191  
 O'er Zephyrs, and distilling wat'ry veins.  
 Secluded now I trace th' instructive page,  
 And live o'er scenes of many a backward age ;  
 Through days, months, years, through time's whole  
                   course I run, 195

And present stand, where time itself begun.

Ye mighty Dead ! of just distinguish'd fame,  
 Your thoughts ! (ye bright Instructors !) here I  
                   claim :

Here ancient knowledge opens Nature's springs,  
 Here truths historic give the hearts of kings ; 200  
 Hence Contemplation learns white hours to find,  
 And labors virtue on th' attentive mind.  
 O lov'd Retreat ! thy joys content bestow,  
 Nor guilt, nor shame, nor sharp repentance know.  
 What the fifth Charles long aim'd in pow'r to see,  
 That happiness he found reserv'd in thee. 206

Now let me change the page—Here Tully weeps,  
 While in Death's icy arms his Tullia sleeps,  
 His daughter dear !—Retir'd I see him mourn,  
 By all the frenzy now of anguish torn. 210

Wild his complaint ! nor sweeter Sorrow's strains  
 When Singer for Alexis lost complains.  
 Each friend condole, expostulates, reproves ;  
 More than a father, raving Tully loves ;  
 Or Sallust censures thus—Unheeding blame 215  
 He schemes a temple to his Tullia's name.  
 Thus o'er my hermit once'did grief prevail,—  
 Thus rose Olympia's Tomb, his moving Tale,—  
 The sighs, tears, frantic starts, that banish rest,  
 And all the bursting sorrows of his breast. 220

But, hark ! a sudden pow'r attunes the air ;  
 Th' enchanting sound enamor'd breezes bear ;  
 Now low, now high, they sink or lift the song,  
 Which the cave echoes sweet, and sweet the creeks  
 prolong. 224

I listen'd, gaz'd, when wondrous to behold !  
 From ocean steam'd a vapor, gath'ring roll'd ;  
 A blue round spot on the mid roof it came,  
 Spread broad, and redden'd into dazzling flame :  
 Full-orb'd it shone, and dimm'd the swimming  
 sight, 229

While doubling objects danc'd with darkling light.  
 Amaz'd I stood !—amaz'd I still remain !  
 What earthly pow'r this wonder can explain ?  
 Gradual, at length, the lustre dies away ;  
 My eyes restor'd a mortal form survey.  
 My Hermit-friend ! 'Tis he !—' All hail !' he cries,  
 ' I see, and would alleviate thy surprise. 236  
 ' The vanish'd meteor was Heav'n's message tacit  
 ' To warn thee hence ; I knew the high intent.

- ' Hear, then: In this sequester'd cave, retir'd,  
 ' Departed saints converse with men inspir'd: 240  
 ' 'Tis sacred ground, nor can thy mind endure,  
 ' Yet unprepar'd, an intercourse so pure.  
 ' Quick let us hence.—And now extend thy views  
 ' O'er yonder lawn; there find the heav'n-born  
     ' Muse!  
 ' Or seek her where she trusts her tuneful tale 245  
 ' To the mid silent wood or vocal vale;  
 ' Where trees half check the light with trembling  
     ' shades,  
 ' Close in deep glooms, or open clear in glades;  
 ' Or where surrounding vistas far descend,  
 ' The landscape vary'd at each less'ning end; 250  
 ' She, only she, can mortal thoughts refine,  
 ' And raise thy voice to visitants divine.' 252

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### CANTO V.

**W**e left the cave. 'Be Fear,' said I, 'defy'd!  
 ' Virtue (for thou art Virtue) is my guide.'

By time-worn steps a steep ascent we gain,  
 Whose summit yields a prospect o'er the plain;  
 There, bench'd with turf, an oak our seat extends, 5  
 Whose top a verdant branch'd pavilion beads;  
 Vistas with leaves diversify the scene,  
 Some pale, some brown, and some of lively green.

Now from the full-grown day a beamy show'r  
 Gleams on the lake; and gilds each glossy flow'r;

Gay insects sparkle in the genial blaze, 11  
 Various as light, and countless as its rays ;  
 They dance on ev'ry stream, and pictur'd play,  
 Till by the wat'ry racer snatch'd away.

Now from yon range of rocks strong rays rebound,  
 Doubling the day on flow'ry plains around ; 16  
 King-cups beneath far striking colors glance,  
 Bright as th' ethereal, glows the green expanse :  
 Gems of the field !—the topaz charms the sight,  
 Like these, effulging yellow streams of light : 20  
 From the same rocks fall rills with soften'd force,  
 Meet in yon mead, and well a river's source ;  
 Through her clear channel shine her finny shoals,  
 O'er sands like gold the liquid crystal rolls ;  
 Dimm'd in yon coarser moor her charms decay, 25  
 And shape through rustling reeds a ruffled way ;  
 Near willows short and bushy shadows throw ;  
 Now lost she seems through nether tracks to flow,  
 Yet at yon point winds out in silver state,  
 Like virtue from a labyrinth of fate. 30  
 In length'ning rows prone from the mountains run  
 The flocks—their fleeces glist'ning in the sun ;  
 Her streams they seek, and 'twixt her neighb'ring  
 Recline in various attitudes of ease ; {trees  
 Where the herds sip the little scaly fry 35  
 Swift from the shore in scant'ring myriads fly.

Each liv'ry'd cloud that round th' horizon glows  
 Shifts in odd shapes, like earth, from whence it rose :  
 The bee hums wanton in yon jessamine bow'r,  
 And circling settles, and despoils the flow'r. 40

Melodious there the plummy songsters meet,  
 And call charm'd Echo from her arch'd retreat :  
 Near polish'd mansions rise in prospect gay,  
 Time-batter'd tow'rs, frown awful in decay ;  
 The sun plays glitt'ring on the rocks and spires,  
 And the lawn lightens with reflected fires. 46

Here Mirth and Fancy's wanton train advance,  
 And, to light measures, turn the swimming dance ;  
 Sweet slow-pac'd Melancholy next appears,  
 Pompous in grief, and eloquent of tears ; 50  
 Here Meditation shines, in azure dress,  
 All starr'd with gems ; a sun adorns her crest :  
 RELIGION, to whose lifted raptur'd eyes  
 Seraphic hosts descend, from op'ning skies ; 54  
 Beauty, who sways the heart, and charms the sight,  
 Whose tongue is music, and whose smile delight ;  
 Whose brow is majesty, whose bosom peace,  
 Who bade Creation be, and Chaos cease ;  
 Whose breath perfumes the spring, whose eye di-  
 vine

Kindled the sun, and gave its light to shine ; 60  
 Here in thy likeness, fair Ophelia !\* seen,  
 She throws kind lustre o'er th' enliven'd green :  
 Next her Description, rob'd in various hues,  
 Invites attention from the pensive Muse ;  
 The Muse !—she comes ! refin'd the Passions writ,  
 And Precept, ever winning, wise, and great ; 66  
 The Muse ! a thousand spirits wing the air  
 (Once men, who made like her mankind their care)

Enamour'd round her press th' inspiring throng,  
And swell to ecstacy her solemn song. 70

Thus in the dame, each nobler grace we find,  
Fair Wortley's angel-accent, eyes, and mind:  
Whethen her sight the dew bright dawn surveys,  
The noon's dry heat, or ev'ning's temper'd rays,  
The hours of storm or calm, the gleby ground, 75  
The coral'd sea, gem'd rock, or sky profound,  
A Raphael's fancy animates each line,  
Each image strikes with energy divine;  
Bacon and Newton in her thoughts conspire,  
Nor sweeter than her voice is Handel's lyre. 80

My Hermis thus: 'She beckons us away;  
'Oh! let us swift the high behest obey!'

Now through a lane, which mingling tracks have  
The way unequal, and the landscape lost, [cross,  
We rove. The warblers lively tunes essay, 85  
The lark on wing, the linnet on the spray,  
While music trembles in their songful throats,  
The bullfinch whistles soft his flute-like notes;  
The holder blackbird swells sonorous lays,  
The varying thrush commands a tuneful mass; 90  
Each a wild length of melody pursues,  
While the soft murmur'ing am'rous wood-dove  
cooes;

And when in spring these melting mixtures flow,  
The cuckoo sends her unison of woe.  
But as smooth seas are furrow'd by a storm, 95  
As troubles all our tranquil joys deform,

+ MISCELLANIES:

So loud through air unwelcome noises sound,  
 And harmony's at once in discord drown'd :  
 From yon dark cypress croaks the raven's cry,  
 As dissonant the daw, jay, chatt'ring pie: 100  
 The clam'rous crows abandon'd ~~can~~age seek,  
 And the harsh owl shrills out a sharp'ning shriek.

At the lane's end a high-lath'd gate's preferr'd,  
 To bar the trespass of a vagrant herd;  
 Fast by, a meagre mendicant we find, 105  
 Whose russet rags hang flutt'ring in the wind :  
 Years bow his back, a staff supports his tread,  
 And soft white hairs shade thin his palsy'd head.  
 Poor Wretch!—is this for charity his haunt? 109  
 He meets the frequent slight and ruthless taunt.  
 On slaves of guilt oft smiles the squand'ring peer,  
 But, passing, knows not common bounty here.  
 Vain Thing! in what dost thou superior shine?  
*His, our first sire; what race more ancient thine?*  
 Less backward trac'd, he may his lineage draw  
 From men, whose influence kept the world in awe;  
 Whose worthless sons, like thee perchance, con-  
 sum'd

Their ample store, their line to want was doom'd.  
 So thine may perish by the course of things,  
 While his from beggars reascend to kings. 120  
 Now, Lazar! as thy hardships I peruse,  
 On my own state instructed would I muse.  
 When I view Greatness, I my lot lament;  
 Compar'd to thee, I smother up my discontent:



I might have felt, did Heav'n not gracious deal,  
 A fate which I must mourn to see thee feel. 126  
 But, soft ! the cripple our approach describes,  
 And to the gate, though weak, officious hies.  
 I spring preventive, and unbar the way,  
 Then, turning, with a smile of pity, say, 130  
 ' Here, Friend ! this little copper alms receive,  
 ' Instance of will, without the pow'r to give,  
 ' Hermit ! if here, with pity, we reflect,  
 ' How must we grieve when Learning meets neg-  
     ' lect ? 134  
 ' When godlike souls endure a mean restraint ;  
 ' When gen'rous will is curb'd by tyrant Want ?  
 ' He, truly feels whar to distress belongs,  
 ' Who, to his private, adds a people's wrongs ;  
 ' Merit's a mark at which disgrace is thrown,  
 ' And ev'ry injur'd virtue is his own : 140  
 ' Such their own pangs with patience here endure,  
 ' Yet there weep wounds, they are deny'd to cure ;  
 ' Thus rich in poverty, thus humbly great,  
 ' And though depress'd superior to their fate.  
 ' Minions in pow'r, and misers 'mid their store,  
 ' Are mean in greatness, and in plenty poor. 146  
 ' What's pow'r or wealth ? were they not form'd  
     ' for aid,  
 ' A spring for virtue, and from wrongs a shade ?  
 ' In pow'r we savage Tyranny behold,  
 ' And wily Av'rice owns polluted gold. 150  
 ' From golden shafts her pride could Libya raise ?  
 ' Could she who spreads no pasture claim our praise ?

# MISCELLANIES

'Loath'd were her weakh where rabid monsters  
' breed,

' Where serpents, pamper'd on her venom, feed ;

' No shelt'ry trees invite the Wand'rar's eye, 155

' No fruits, no grain, no gums, her tracts supply ;

' On her vast wilds no lovely prospects run,

' But all-lies barren, though beneath the sun.'

My Hermit thus. " I know, thy soul believes

" 'Tis hard Vice triumphs, and that Virtue grieves ;

" Yet oft affliction purifies the mind, 161

" Kind benefits oft flow from means unkind.

" Were the whole known, that we uncouth suppose,

" Doubtless would beauteous symmetry disclose.

" The naked cliff, that singly rough remains, 165

" In prospect dignifies the fertile plains ;

" Lead-color'd clouds, in scatt'ring fragments seen,

" Shew, though in broken views, the blue serene.

" Severe distresses, industry inspire ;

" Thus captives oft' excelling arts acquire, 170

" And boldly struggle through a state of shame

" To life, ease, plenty, liberty and fame.

" Sword-law has often Europe's balance gain'd,

" And one red vict'ry years of peace maintain'd.

" We pass through want to wealth, through dis-

" mal strife 175

" To calm content, through death to endless life.

" Libya thou nam'st—Let Afric's wastes appear

" Caus'd by those heats that fructify the year.

" Yet the same sun her orange groves tincts,

" Whence clustering globes in shining seas depend :

- " Here, when fierce beams o'er with'ring plants  
     " are roll'd, 181  
 " There, the green fruit seems ripen'd into gold :  
 " Ev'n scenes that strike with terrible surprise  
 " Still prove a GOD just, merciful, and wise :  
 " Sad wint'ry blasts, that strip the autumn, bring  
 " The milder beauties of a flow'ry spring. 186  
 " Ye sulph'rous fires ! in jaggy lightnings break ;  
 " Ye thunders rattle ! and ye nations shake !  
 " Ye storms of riving flame the forest tear !  
 " Deep crack the rocks ! rent trees be whirl'd in  
     " air ! 190  
 " Reft at a stroke some stately fane we'll mourn,  
 " Her tombs wide-shatter'd, and her dead upturn ;  
 " Were noxious spirits not from caverns drawn,  
 " Rack'd earth would soon in gulfs enormous  
     " yawn ; 194  
 " Then all were lost !—Or should we floating view  
 " The baleful cloud, there would destruction brew ;  
 " Plague, Fever, Frenzy, close engend'ring lie,  
 " Till these red ruptures clear the sully'd sky."

Now a field opens to enlarge my thought,  
 In parcell'd tracts to various uses wrought : 200  
 Here hard'ning ripeness the first blooms behold,  
 There the last blossoms spring-like pride unfold :  
 Here swelling pease on leafy stalks are seen,  
 Mix'd flow'rs of red and azure shine between,  
 Whose waving banner, heighten'd by the sun,  
 In color'd lanes along the furrows run : 206

Now frequent dusty gales offensive blow, 225  
And o'er my sight a transient blindness throw.  
Windward we shift. Near down th' ethereal steep  
The lamp of day hangs hov'ring o'er the deep.  
Dun shades, in rocky shapes up ether roll'd,  
Project long shaggy points deep-ring'd with gold :  
Others take faint th' unripen'd cherry's dye, 281  
And paint amusing landscapes on the eye ;  
Their blue-veil'd yellow through a sky serene,  
In swelling mixture forms a floating green ;  
Streak'd through white clouds, a mild vermilion  
shines. 235

And the breeze freshens as the heat declines.



# MISCELLANIES.

There nightingales in unprun'd copses build,  
 In shaggy furzes lies the hare conceal'd :  
 'Twixt ferns and thistles unsown flow'rs amuse,  
 And form a lucid chase of various hues, 266  
 Many half gray with dust ; confus'd they lie,  
 Scent the rich year, and lead the wand'ring eye.

Contemplative, we tread the flow'ry plain,  
 The Muse preceding with her heav'nly train ; 270  
 When, lo ! the Mendicant, so late behind,  
 Strange view ! now journeying in our front we find ;  
 And yet a view more strange our heed demands ;  
 Touch'd by the Muse's wand transform'd he stands :  
 O'er skin late wrinkled instant beauty spreads, 275  
 The late dimm'd eye a vivid lustre sheds ;  
 Hairs, once so thin, now graceful locks decline,  
 And rags, now chang'd, in regal vestments shine.

The Hermit thus. " In him the Bard behold,  
 " Once seen by midnight's lamp in winter's cold ;  
 " The Bard whose want so multiply'd his woes,  
 " He sunk a mortal and a seraph rose.  
 " See ! where those stately yew-trees darkling grow,  
 " And waving o'er yon graves brown horrors  
 " throw, 284  
 " Scornful he points—there, o'er his sacred dust  
 " Arise the sculptur'd tomb and labor'd bust ;  
 " Vain pomp ! bestow'd by ostentatious Pride,  
 " Who, to a life of want, relief deny'd."  
 But thus the Bard. " Are these the gifts of  
 " state ?

" Gifts unpecciv'd !—These ? ye ungen'rous Great !

- " How was I treated when in life forlorn? 291  
 " My claim your pity, but my lot your scorn!  
 " Why were my studious hours oppos'd by need?  
 " In me, did poverty, from guilt, proceed?  
 " Did I contemporary authors wrong, 295  
 " And deem their worth but as they priz'd my  
     " song?  
 " Did I sooth vice, or venal strokes betray  
 " In the low-purpos'd loud polemic fray?  
 " Did e'er my verse immodest warmth contain?  
 " Or, once licentious, heav'nly truths profane?  
 " Never.—And yet when envy sunk my name,  
 " Who call'd my shadow'd merit into fame? 302  
 " When, undeserv'd, a prison's grate I saw,  
 " What hand redeem'd me from the wrested law?  
 " Who cloth'd me naked, or when hungry fed?  
 " Why crush the living? why extoll'd the dead?—  
 " But foreign languages adopt my lays,  
 " And distant nations shame you into praise.  
 " Why should unrelish'd wit these honors cause?  
 " Custom, not knowledge, dictates your applause:  
 " Or think you thus a self-renown to raise, 311  
 " And mingle your vain glories with my bays?  
 " Be your's the mould'ring tomb! be mine the lay  
 " Immortal!"—Thus he scoffs the pomp away.  
     Though words like these unletter'd pride im-  
         peach, 315  
 To the meek heart he turns with milder speech.  
 Though now a seraph, oft he deigns to wear  
 The face of human friendship, oft of care;

To walk disguis'd, an object of relief,  
 A learn'd, good man, long exercis'd in grief; 320  
 Forlorn, a friendless orphan oft to roam,  
 Craving some kind, some hospitable home;  
 Or, like Ulysses, a low lazaret<sup>1</sup> and,  
 Beseeching Pity's eye and Bounty's hand;  
 Or, like Ulysses, roval aid request, 325  
 Wand'ring from court to court, a king distrest.  
 Thus varying shapes, the seeming son of Woe  
 Eyes the cold heart, and hearts th<sup>at</sup> gen'rous glow,  
 Then to the Muse relates each lordly name,  
 Who deals impartial infamy and fame. 330  
 Oft, as when man in mortal state depress'd,  
 His lays taught virtue, which his life confess'd,  
 He now forms visionary scenes below,  
 Inspiring patience in the heart of woe;  
 Patience<sup>t</sup> that softens ev'ry sad extreme, 335  
 That casts through dungeon-glooms a cheerful  
     gleam,  
 Disarms Disease of pain, mocks Slander's sting,  
 And strips of terrors the terrific king,  
 'Gainst Want, a sourer foe, its surcor lends,  
 And smiling sees th' ingratitude of friends. 340  
 Nor are these tasks to him alone consign'd,  
 Millions invisible befriend mankind.  
 When wat'ry structures, seen cross heav'n r'astend,  
 Arch above arch in radiant order bend,  
 Fancy beholds, adown each glitt'ring side 345  
 Myriads of ~~ethereal~~ seraphs glide &



She sees good angels genial show'rs bestow  
From the red convex of the dewy bow ;  
They smile upon the swain ; he views the prize,  
Then grateful bends to bless the bounteous skies.  
Some winds collect and send propitious gales 351  
Oft where Britannia's navy spreads her sails,  
There ever wafting, on the breath of Fame,  
Unequal'd glory in her sov'reign's name :  
Some teach young Zephyrs vernal sweets to bear,  
And float the balmy health on ambient air ; 356  
Zephyrs that oft, where lovers list'ning lie,  
Along the grove in melting music die,  
And in lone caves to minds poetic roll  
Seraphic whispers that abstract the soul. 360  
Some range the colors as they parted fly,  
Clear pointed to the philosophic eye ;  
The flaming red that pains the dwelling gaze,  
The stainless lightsome yellow's gilding rays,  
The clouded orange, that betwixt them glows, 365  
And to kind mixture tawny lustre owes ;  
All-cheering green, that gives the spring its dye,  
The bright transparent blue, that robes the sky ;  
And indigo, which shaded light displays,  
And violet, which in the view decays : 370  
Parental hues, whence others all proceed,  
An ever-mingling, changeful, countless breed,  
Unravell'd, variegated lines of light,  
When blended darting in promiscuous train.  
Oft through these hazy departed spirits range, 375  
New to the skies, admiring at their change ;

Each ~~finds~~ a void, as when first born to earth,  
 Behold, a second blank in second birth ;  
 Then, at yon scrapp-bard fram'd hearts below,  
 Each sees him here transcendent knowledge show,  
 New saints he tutors into truth refin'd, 381  
 And tunes to rapt'rous love the New-form'd mind :  
 He swells the lyre, whose loud melodious lays  
 Call high hosannas from the voice of praise ;  
 Though one bad age such poetry could wrong, 385  
 Now worlds, around retentive, roll the song ;  
 Now GOD's high throne, the full-voic'd raptures  
 Celestial hosts returning strain for strain. [gain,

Thus he who once knew want without relief  
 Sees joy resulting from well-suff'ring grief. 390  
 Hark ! while we talk, a distant pattering rain  
 Resounds :—see ! up the broad ethereal plain  
 Shoots the bright bow !—the scrapp flits away ;  
 The ~~Music, the~~ Graces, from our view decay.  
 ' Behind yon western hill the globe of light 395  
 Drops sudden, fast pursu'd by shades of night.

Yon graves from winter-scenes to mind recal  
 Rebellion's council and rebellion's fall.  
 What fiends in sulph'rous cat-like clouds upflew !  
 What midnight treason glar'd beneath their view  
 And now the traitors rear their Babel-schemes, 401  
 Big, and more big, stupendous mischief seem ;  
 But Justice, rous'd, superior strength employs,  
 Their scheme wide shatters, and their hope destroys.  
 Discord stirr'd wills ; the missile rain flies ; 40  
 Sudden, unnatural debates arise,

Doubt, mutual jealousy, and dark distrust;  
 Dark-hinted mutterings, and avow'd distrust;  
 To secret ferment is each heart resign'd,  
 Suspicion hovers in each clouded mind: 410  
 They jar, accus'd accuse, revil'd revile,  
 And wrath to wrath oppose and guile to guile;  
 Wrangling they part, themselves themselves betray;  
 Each dire device starts naked into day;  
 They feel confusion in the van with fear, 415  
 They feel the king of Terrors in the rear.

Of these were three, by diff'rent motives fir'd,  
 Ambition one, and one Revenge inspir'd:  
 The third, O Mammon! was thy meaner slave:  
 Thou idol seldom of the great and brave. 420

Florio, whose life was one continu'd feast,  
 His wealth diminish'd and his debts increas'd,  
 Vain pomp and equipage his low desires,  
 Who ne'er to intellectual bliss aspires;  
 He, to repair by vice what vice has broke, 425  
 Durst with bold treasons Judgment's rod provoke:  
 His strength of mind, by lux'ry half dissolv'd,  
 Ill brooks the woe where deep he stands involv'd:  
 He weeps, stamps wild, and to and fro now flies,  
 Now wrings his hands, and sends unmanly cries;  
 Arraigns his judge, affirms unjust he bleeds, 431  
 And now recants, and now for mercy pleads;  
 Now blames associates, raves with inward strife,  
 Upbraideth himself, then thinks alone on life:  
 He rolls red swelling tearful eyes around, 435  
 Sore smites his breast, and sinks upon the ground:

# MISCELLANIES.

Wails, ~~the~~ quite desponds, convulsive lies,  
 Shrinks from the fancy'd axe, and thinks he dies :  
 Revives, with hope inquires, stops short with fear,  
 Entreats ev'n flatt'ry, nor the worst will hear ; 440  
 The worst, alas ! his doom—What friend replies ?  
 Each speaks with shaking head and downcast eyes :  
 One silence breaks, then pauses, drops a tear,  
 Nor hope affords, nor quite confirms his fear,—  
 But what kind friendship, part reserves, unknown,  
 Comes thund'ring in his keeper's surly tone. 446  
 Enough struck through and through, in ghastly  
 stare

He stands transfix'd, the statue of Despair ;  
 Nor aught of life nor aught of death he knows,  
 Till thought returns, and brings return of woes :  
 Now pours a storm of grief in gushing streams ;  
 That past—collected in himself he seems,  
 And with forced smile retires—His latent thought  
 Dark, horrid, ~~in~~ the prison's dismal vault.

If with himself at variance ever wild, 455  
 With angry Heav'n, how stands he reconcil'd ?  
 No penitential orisons arise ;  
 Nay, he obtests the justice of the Skies.  
 Not for his guilt,—for sentenc'd life, he moans,  
 His chains tough-clanking to discordant groans,  
 To bars harsh-grating, heavy-creaking doors, 461  
 Hoarse-echoing walls, and hollow-tinging floors ;  
 To thoughts more dissonant, far, far less kind,  
 One anarchy, one chaos of the mind.

At length, faugu'd with grief, he sinks to rest;  
 But soon as sleep weighs down his weary head,  
 Glad liberty appears, no dreamer's guest;  
 Treason succeeds, and all transpires to joy;  
 Proud palaces their glitt'ring stores display;  
 Gain he pursues, and Rapine leads the way. 470  
 What gold! what gems!—he strains to seize the  
 prize;

Quick from his touch dissolv'd, a cloud it flies!  
 Conscious he cries—"And must I wake to weep?  
 ' Ah! yet return, return delusive sleep!'  
 Sleep comes, but liberty no more—Unkind, 475  
 The dungeon-glooms hang heavy on his mind.  
 Shri!l winds are heard, and howling demons tell,  
 Wide-flying portals seem unbing'd to fall,  
 Then close with sudden claps, a dreadful din! 479  
 He starts, wakes, starts, and all is hell within.

His genius flies—Reflects he now on power?  
 Alas! had spirits turn those thoughts to air.  
 What shall he next? what, stern unloquish breath,  
 To bar a public, just, though shameful death?  
 Rash, horrid thoughts! yet, now afraid to live,  
 Murd'rous he strikes—May that in the dead the  
 give! 485

Why had he thus false spirit to rebel,  
 And why not fastidious to suffer well?  
 Were his sects, how terrible the blow!  
 And it recoils on him eternal woe. 490  
 Heav'n this affliction then for mercy meant,  
 That a good end might close a life mispent.

Is the hollow'd dirge resound,  
Far from the heart of yon sacred ground,  
Full in the centre of three meeting ways, 495  
Stak'd thro' the list—Warn'd, let the wicked gaze.

Near yonder fane, where Mis'ry sleeps in peace,  
Whose spire fast lessens as these shades increase,  
Left to the north, whence oft-brew'd tempest roll,  
Tempests, dire emblems, Cosmo! of thy soul,  
There mark that Cosmo, much for guile renown'd,  
His grave by unbid plants of poison crown'd.

When out of pow'r, thro' him the public good,  
So strong his factious tribe, suspended stood:  
In pow'r, vindictive actions were his aim, 505  
And patriots perish'd by th' ungenerous flame.

If the best cause he in the Senate chose,  
Ev'n right in him from some wrong motive rose.  
The bad he loath'd, and would the weak despise,  
Yet courted for dark ends, and shunn'd the wise.

When ill his purpose, eloquent his strain; 511  
His malice had a look and voice humane.

His smile, the signal of some vile intent,  
A private poniard or empoison'd scent:  
Proud, yet to popular applause a slave, 515  
No friend he honor'd, and no foe forgave.

His boons unfrequent, or unjust to need,  
The hire of guilt, of infamy the meed,  
But if they chanc'd on learned worth to fall,  
Bounty in him was ostentation all. 520

No true benevolence his thought sublimes,  
His noblest actions are illustrious crimes.

Fine parts, which virtue might have rank'd with  
fame,

Enhance his guilt, and magnify his shame.

When parts in probity in man combine, 525

In wisdom's eye how charming must he shine !

Let him, less happy, truth at least impart,

And what he wants in genius bear in heart.

Cosmo, as death draws nigh, no more conceals  
That storm of passion which his nature feels ; 530

He feels much fear, more anger, and most pride,

But pride and anger make all fear subside :

Dauntless he meets at length unshaken fate,

A desp'rate spirit ! rather fierce than great :

Darkling he glides along the dreary coast, 535

A sullen, wand'ring, self-tormenting ghost.

Where veiny marble dignifies the ground,

With emblem fair in sculpture rising round ;

Just where a crossing length'ning aisle we find,

Full east, whence GOD returns to judge man-  
kind,

Once-lov'd Horatio sleeps, a mind elate ! 541

Lamented Shade ! ambition was thy fate.

Ev'n angels, wand'ring, oft his worth envay'd ;

' Behold a man like one of us !' they said.

Strait headed the Furies, and with envy glar'd,

And to precipitate his fall prepar'd. 546

First Avarice came ; in vain self-love she press'd ;

The poor he pity'd still, and still redress'd :

Learning was his, and knowledge to commend,

Of arts a patron, and of want a friend. 550

Next came Revenge ; but her essay how vain !  
 Not hate not envy in his heart remain ;  
 No previous malice could his mind engage,  
 Malice, the mother of vindictive Rage.  
 No—from his life his foes might learn to live ;  
 He held it still a triumph to forgive. 556  
 At length Ambition urg'd his country's weal,  
 Assuming the fair look of Public Zeal ;  
 Still in his breast so gen'rous glow'd the flame,  
 The vice, when there, a virtue half became. 560  
 His pitying eye saw millions in distress,  
 He deem'd it godlike to have pow'r to bless ;  
 Thus, when unguarded, treason stain'd him o'er,  
 And virtue and content were then no more.

But when to death by rig'rous Justice doom'd,  
 His genuine spirit saint-like state assum'd, 566  
 Oft from soft penitence distill'd a tear,  
 Oft hope in heav'nly mercy lighten'd fear ;  
 Oft would a drop from strugg'ling nature fall,  
 And then a smile of patience brighten all. 570

He seeks in Heav'n a friend, nor seeks in vain ;  
 His guardian angel swift descends again,  
 And resolution thus bespeaks a mind,  
 Not scorning life, yet all to death resign'd :  
 \* —We chains ! fit only to restrain the will 575  
 \* Of common desperate veterans in ill,  
 \* Though ranking on my limbs ye lie, declare,  
 \* Did e'er my rising soul your pressure wear ?  
 \* No !—free as Liberty, and quick as light,  
 \* To worlds remote she takes unbounded flight. 580



- ' Ye Dungeon-glooms ! that dim all eyes,  
 ' Could ye once blot her prospect of the skies ?  
 ' No !—from her clearer sight ye fled away,  
 ' Like Error, pierc'd by Truth's resistless ray.  
 ' Ye Walls ! that witness my repentant moan ;  
 ' Ye Echoes ! that to midnight sorrows groan ;  
 ' Do I, in wrath, to you of Fate complain,  
 ' Or once betray fear's most inglorious pain ?  
 ' No ! Hail, twice hail, then, ignominious death !  
 ' Behold how willing glides my parting breath !  
 ' Far greater, better far—ay, far indeed ! 591  
 ' Like me have suffered, and like me will bleed.  
 ' Apostles, patriarchs, prophets, martyrs, all  
 ' Like me once fell, nor murmur'd at their fall.  
 ' Shall I, whose days at best, no ill design'd, 593  
 ' Whose virtue shone not, tho' I lov'd mankind,  
 ' Shall I, now guilty wretch ! shall I repine ?  
 ' Ah ! no ; to justice let me life resign.  
 ' Quick, as a friend, would I embrace my foe !  
 ' He taught me patience who first taught me  
     woe :  
 ' But friends are foes, they render woe severe, 601  
 ' For me they wail, from me extort the tear.  
 ' Not those, yet absent, missive griefs control ;  
 ' These periods weep, those rave, and these con-  
     dole :  
 ' At entrance shrieks a friend, with pale surprise,  
 ' Another panting, prostrate, speechless lies ; 606  
 ' One grips my hand, one sobs upon my breast ;  
 ' Ah ! who can bear !—at shocks, to unbroken rest !

- And is it yours, alas! my friends, to feel?  
 • And is it mine, to comfort, mine to heal? 610  
 • Is mine the patience, yours the bosom strife?  
 • Ah! would rash love lure back my thoughts to  
     life?  
 • Adieu; dear dang'rous Mourners! swift depart;  
 • Ah! fly me; fly!—I tear ye from my heart!  
 • Ye Saints! whom fears of death could ne'er con-  
     trol, 615  
 • In my last hour compose, support my soul;  
 • See my blood wash repented sin away;  
 • Receive, receive me to eternal day!"

With words like these the destin'd hero dies,  
 While angels wait his soul to happier skies. 620

Distinction now gives way; yet on we talk,  
 Full darkness deep'ning o'er the formless walk;  
 Night treads not with light step the dewy gale,  
 Nor bright distends her scar-embroider'd veil;  
 Her leaden feet inclement damps distil, 625  
 Clouds shut her face, black winds her venture fill;  
 An earth-born meteor lights the sable skies,  
 Eastward it shoots, and, sunk, forgotten dies:  
 So Pride, that rose from dust to guilty pow'r,  
 Glares out in vain; so dust shall pride devour. 630

Fishes, who yonder brink by torches gain,  
 With useful tridents strike the scaly train;  
 Like snakes in eagles' claws, in vain they strive,  
 When heav'd aloft, and quiv'ring yet alive. 634

Here methought our time in converse past,  
 The moon clouds muffled, and the night wore fast;

At prowling wolves was heard the mastiff's bay,  
 And the worn'd master's arms forsook the prey.  
 Thus treason steals, the patriot thus descends, 639  
 Forth springs the monarch, and the mischief dies.

Pale glow-worms glimmer'd thro' the depth of  
 night

Scatt'ring, like hope thro' fear, a doubtful light :  
 Lone Philomela tun'd the silent grove,  
 With pensive pleasure listen'd wakeful Love ;  
 Half-dreaming Fancy form'd an angel's tongue,  
 And Pain forgot to groan, so sweet she sung : 646  
 The Night-crone, with the melody alarm'd,  
 Now paus'd, now listen'd, and awhile was charm'd ;  
 But like the man whose frequent stubborn will  
 Resists what kind seraphic sounds instil, 650  
 Her heart the love-inspiring voice repell'd,  
 Her breast with agitating mischief swell'd,  
 Which clos'd her ear, and tempted to destroy  
 The tuneful life that charms with virtuous joy.

Now fast we measure back the trackless way, 658  
 No friendly stars directive beams display :  
 But, lo !—a thousand lights shoot instant rays ;  
 Yon kindling rock reflects the starting blaze.  
 I stand astonish'd ; thus the Hermit said ;  
 ' Fear not, but listen with enlarg'd surprise,  
 ' Still must these hours our mortal course detain,  
 ' And cease to echo still Olympus's shade ;  
 ' Grown, riv'len, groves, Olympus's shade forgot,  
 ' Olympus now no sighing winds repeat.

- ' Can I be mortal, and those hours no more, 665  
 ' Those am'rous hours, that plaintive echoes bore ?  
 ' Am I the same ! ah ! no—behold a mind  
 ' Unruffled, firm, exalted, and refin'd !  
 ' Late months, that made the vernal season gay,  
 ' Saw my health languish off in pale decay : 670  
 ' No racking pain yet gave disease a date,  
 ' No sad presaging thought preluded fate :  
 ' Yet number'd were my days—My destin'd end  
 ' Near, and more near—Nay, ev'ry fear suspend !  
 ' I pass'd a weary, ling'ring, sleepless night, 675  
 ' Then rose, to walk in morning's earliest light ;  
 ' But few my steps—a faint and cheerless few !  
 ' Refreshment from my flagging spirits flew :  
 ' When, lo ! retir'd beneath a cypress shade,  
 ' My limbs upon a flow'ry bank I laid, 680  
 ' Soon by soft-creeping murm'ring winds compos'd,  
 ' A slumber press'd my languid eyes—they clos'd,  
 ' But clos'd not long—methought Olympia spoke ;  
 ' Thrice loud she call'd, and thrice the slumber  
     broke : 684  
 ' I wak'd : forth-gliding from a neighb'ring wood,  
 ' Full in my view the shadowy charmer stood :  
 ' Rapt'rous I started up to clasp the shade,  
 ' But stinger'd, fell, and found my vitals fade :  
 ' A mantling chillness o'er my bosom spread,  
 ' As if that instant mix'd with the dead. 690  
 ' Her voice now sent a far imperfect sound,  
 ' When in a swimming trance my pangs were  
     drown'd.

' Still farther off she call'd—With soft surprise  
 ' I turn'd—but void of strength, and aid to rise;  
 ' Short, shorter, shorter yet, my breath I drew,  
 ' Then up my struggling soul unburthen'd flew.  
 ' Thus from a state where sin and grief abide,  
 ' Heav'n summon'd me to mercy—thus I dy'd.'

He said. Th' astonishment with which I start  
 Like bolted ice runs shiv'ring thro' my heart. 700  
 ' Art thou not mortal then?' I cry'd. But, lo!  
 His raiment lightens, and his features glow;  
 In shady ringlets falls a length of hair;  
 Embloom'd his aspect shines, enlarg'd his air:  
 Mild from his eyes caliv'ning glories beam, 708  
 Mild on his brow sits majesty supreme;  
 Bright plumes of ev'ry dye, that round him flow,  
 Vest, robe, and wings, in vary'd lustre show:  
 He looks, and forward steps with mien divine;  
 A grace celestial gives him all to shine: 710  
 He speaks—Nature is ravish'd at the sound,  
 The forests move, and streams stand list'ning round!

Thus he. ' As incorruption I assum'd,  
 ' As instant in immortal youth I bloom'd!  
 ' Renew'd, and chang'd, I felt my vital springs  
 ' With diff'rent lights discern'd the form of  
     things; 716  
 ' To earth my passions fell, and mine away,  
 ' And season open'd in eternal day:  
 ' Swifter than thought from world to world I flew,  
 ' Celestial knowledge shone in ev'ry view. 720

- ' My food was truth—what transport could I miss,  
 ' My prospect all, infinitude of bliss ?  
 ' Olympia met me first, and, smiling gay,  
 ' Onward to mercy, led the shining way,  
 ' As far transcendant to her wonted air, . 725  
 ' As her dear wonted self to many a fair !  
 ' In voice and form, beauty more beauteous shows,  
 ' And harmony still, more harmonious grows.  
 ' She points out souls who taught me Friendship's  
     charms, 729  
 ' They gaze, they glow, they spring into my arms !  
 ' Well pleas'd, high ancestors my view command,  
 ' Patrons and patriots all, a glorious band !  
 ' Horatio too, by well-born fate refin'd,  
 ' Shone out, white rob'd with saints, a spotless  
     mind !  
 ' What once, below, ambition made him miss,  
 ' Humility here gain'd a life of bliss ! 736  
 ' Tho' late, let sinners then from sin depart ;  
 ' Heav'n a never yet despis'd the contrite heart.  
 ' Last shone, with sweet exalted lustre grac'd,  
 ' The seraph-Bard, in highest order plac'd ! 740  
 ' Spers, lovers, legislators, prelates, kings,  
 ' All raptur'd, listen as he raptur'd sings :  
 ' Sweetness and strength his look and lays employ,  
 ' Greet smiles with smiles, and ev'ry joy with joy :  
 ' Charms he speaks, his ever, charming tongue 745  
 ' Joy to our second hymnals sung ;  
 ' Still as we pass'd the bright celestial throng  
 ' Hail'd us in social love and heav'nly song.

‘ Of that no more ! my deathless friendship see !  
‘ I come an angel to the Muse and Thee. 730  
‘ These lights that vibrate, and promiscuous shine,  
‘ Are emanations all of forms divine.  
‘ And here the Muse, tho’ melted from thy gaze,  
‘ Stands among spirits, mingling rays with rays.  
‘ If thou would’st peace attain my words attend,  
‘ The last fond words of thy departed friend ! 736  
‘ True joy’s a seraph that to heav’n aspires,  
‘ Unhurt it triumphs mid’ celestial choirs :  
‘ But should no cares a mortal state molest,  
‘ Life were a state of ignorance at best. 760  
‘ Know then, if ills oblige thee to retire,  
‘ Those ills solemnity of thought inspire. \*  
‘ Did not the soul abroad for objects roam,  
‘ Whence could she learn to call ideas home !  
‘ Justly to know thyself, peruse mankind ; 764  
‘ To know thy GOD, paint nature on thy mind :  
‘ Without such science of the worldly scene  
‘ What is retirement ?—empty pride or spleen ;  
‘ But with it wisdom. There shall cares refine,  
‘ Render’d by contemplation half divine. 770  
‘ Trust not the frantic or mysterious guide,  
‘ Nor stoop a captive to the schoolman’s pride ;  
‘ On Nature’s wonders fix alone thy zeal ;  
‘ They dim not reason when thy truth reveals  
‘ So shall religion in thy heart endure 776  
‘ From all traditionary falsehood pure ;  
‘ So life make death familiar to thy eye ;  
‘ So shalt thou live as thou may’st learn to die ;

' And tho' thou view'st thy worst oppressor thrive,  
' From transient woe immortal bliss derive. 780

' Farewell!—Nay, stop the parting tear—Largo,

' But leave the Muse thy comforter below.'

He said: instant his pinions upward soar,

He less'ning as they rise till seen no more.

While contemplation weigh'd the mystic view  
The lights all vanish'd, and the Vision flew. 786



# THE BASTARD.

inscribed, with all due reverence,

TO MRS. BRETT,

ONCE COUNTESS OF MACCLESFIELD.

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'Decet hinc dare dona Novercam.'

*Ovid, Met.*

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## PREFACE,

THE reader will easily perceive, these verses were begun, when my heart was sorer than it has been of late; and finished, in hours of the deepest melancholy.

I hope the world will do me the justice to believe, that no part of this flows from any real anger against the Lady to whom it is inscribed. Whoever undeserved severities I may have received at her hands, would she deal so candidly to acknowledge truth, she very well knows, by an experience of many years, that I have ever behaved myself towards her liberally, who thought it his duty to support with patience all afflictions from that quarter. Indeed, if I had not been capable of forgiving

a Mother, I must have blushed to receive pardon at the hands of my sovereign.

Neither, to say the truth, were the manner of my birth all, should I have any reason of complaint—When I am a little disposed to a gay turn of thinking, I consider, as I was a derelict from my cradle, I have the honor of a lawful claim to the best protection in Europe: for being a spot of earth to which no body pretends a title, I devolve naturally upon the King, as one of the rights of his royalty.

While I presume to name his Majesty, I look back with confusion upon the mercy I have lately experienced; because it is impossible to remember it but with something I would fain forget, for the sake of my future peace, and alleviation of my past misfortune.

I owe my life to the royal pity, if a wretch can with propriety be said to live whose days are fewer than his sorrows, and to whom death had been but a redemption from misery.

But I will suffer my pardon as my punishment, all that life, which has so graciously been given me, shall become considerable enough not to be useless in his service to whom it was bestowed. His influence on these sentiments, with which his Majesty's great goodness has inspired me, I consider my law of fortune and dignity in my situation, to which, as I am born without ambition, I am thrown thus, and without resistance—

possessing those advantages, my care had been, perhaps, how to enjoy life ; by the want of them I am taught this nobler lesson, to study how to deserve it.

RICHARD SAVAGE.

## THE BASTARD.

In gayer hours, when high my fancy ran,  
The Muse, exulting, thus her lay began.

Bless'd be the Bastard's birth ! thro' wondrous  
ways

He shines eccentric like a comet's blaze !  
No sickly fruit of faint compliance he !  
His stamp'd in Nature's mint of ecstasy !  
His front no sordid, not boast a gen'rous race,  
His countenance no trait of a foolish face !  
His conduct no man's example bounds ;  
His reason no man's, no prejudice confounds :  
His heart no man's within, requires no flame ;  
He glories in a Bastard's glowing name !

Born to himself, by no possession led,  
In freedom foster'd, and by fortune fed,  
Nor-guides nor rules his sov'reign choice control,  
His body independent as his soul ;  
Loos'd to the world's wide range—assign'd no  
aim,  
Pursu'd no duty, and assign'd no name.

Nature's unbounded son ! he stands alone,  
His heart unbiass'd, and his mind his own.

O Mother ! yet no Mother ! 'tis to you  
My thanks for such distinguish'd claims are due :  
You, unenslav'd to Nature's narrow laws,  
Warm championess for freedom's sacred cause !  
From all the dry devoirs of blood and line,  
From ties maternal, moral, and divine,  
Discharg'd my grasping soul ; push'd me from  
shore,

And launch'd me into life without an oar.

What had I lost if, confagally kind,  
By nature hating, yet by vows confin'd ;  
Untaught the matrimonial bounds to slight,  
And coldly conscious of a husband's right,  
You had faint drawn me with a form alone,  
A lawful lump of life, by force your own !  
Then, while your backward will resist'd my strain  
And unconcurring spirits lent no force to pain,  
I had been born your dull domestic slave,  
Load of your life, and motive of your care,  
Perhaps been poorly rich, and meanly great,  
The slave of pomp, a cypher in the state,  
Loudly neglectful of a worth unknown,  
And slumbering in a seat by chance my own,  
Far sadder blessings wait the Bastard's lot !  
Conceiv'd in rapture, and with fire begot,  
Strong as humanity, he starts away,  
Climbs against wrong, and brightens into day !

Thus unprophetic, lately misinspir'd,  
 I sung: gay flutt'ring hope my fancy fir'd.  
 Inly secure, thro' conscious scorn of ill,  
 Nor taught by wisdom how to balance will,  
 Rashly deceiv'd, I saw no pits to shun,  
 But thought to purpose and to act were one,  
 Heedless what pointed cares pervert his way  
 Whom caution arms not, and whom woes betray;  
 But now, expos'd, and shrinking from distress,  
 I fly to shelter while the tempests press;  
 My Muse to grief resigns the varying tone,  
 The raptures languish, and the numbers groan.

O Memory! thou seat of joy and pain!  
 Thou actor of our passions o'er again!  
 Why dost thou aggravate the wretch's woe?  
 Why add continuous smart to ev'ry blow?  
 Few are my joys; alas! how soon forgot!  
 On what kind quarter thou invad'st me not:  
 While sharp and numberless my sorrows fall,  
 Yet thou repeat'st and multipl'y'st them all!  
 Is chance so guilt? that my distrustful heart  
 For mischief ever meant must ever smart!  
 Can self-defence be sin?—Ah! plead no more.  
 What tho' no purpos'd malice stain'd thee o'er?  
 Had Heav'n befriended thy unhappy side  
 Thou hadst not been provok'd—as thou hast  
 dy'd.

Far be the guilt of homeward blood from all—  
 On whom, untought, embroiling dangers fall!

Still the pale Dead revives, and lives to me,  
 To me ! thro' pity's eye condemn'd so see !  
 Remembrance veils his rage, but swells his fate ;  
 Griev'd I forgive, and am grown cool too late.  
 Young and unthoughtful then, who knows one  
 day,

What rip'ning virtues might have made their way !  
 He might have liv'd till folly dy'd in shame,  
 Till kindling wisdom felt a thirst for fame :  
 He might perhaps his country's friend have prov'd,  
 Both happy, gen'rous, candid, and belov'd ;  
 He might have sav'd some worth now doom'd to  
 fall,

And I, perchance, in him have murder'd all.

O fate of late repentance ! always vain ;  
 Thy remedies but lull undying pain.  
 Where shall my hope find rest ?—No Mother's  
 care

Shielded my infant innocence with prayer ;  
 No Father's guardian hand my youth maintain'd,  
 Call'd forth my virtues, or from vice restrain'd,  
 Is it not thine to snatch some pow'ful arm,  
 First to advance, then screen from future harm ?  
 Am I return'd from death to live in pain ?  
 Or would Imperial Pity save in vain ?  
 Distrust it not—What blame can mercy find  
 Which gives at once a life and rears a mind ?

Mother, miscall'd, farewell !—of soul's distress,  
 This sad reflection yet may force one tear ;

All I was wretched by to you I ow'd,  
Alone from strangers ev'ry comfort flow'd !  
Lost to the life you gaye, your son no more,  
And now, adopted who was doom'd before,  
New-born, I may a nobler Mother claim,  
But dare not whisper her immortal name ;  
Supremely lovely, and serenely great !  
Majestic Mother of a kneeling State !  
Queen of a people's heart, who ne'er before  
Agreed—yet now with one consent adore !  
One contest yet remains in this desire,  
Who most shall give applause where all admire.



# OF PUBLIC SPIRIT

IN REGARD TO PUBLIC WORKS:

## AN EPISTLE

To His Royal Highness

FREDERICK PRINCE OF WALES.

## CONTENTS.

OF reservoirs, and their use. Of draining fens and building bridges, cutting canals, repairing harbors, and stopping inundations, making rivers navigable, building lighthouses. Of agriculture, gardening and planting, for the noblest use. Of commerce. Of public roads. Of public buildings, viz. squares, streets, mansions, palaces, courts of justice, senate-houses, theatres, hospitals, churches, colleges; the variety of wealths produced by the latter. Of colonies. The slave-trade secured, &c.

**G**REAT hope of Britain!—Here the Muse essays  
A theme, which, to attempt, alone is praise.  
Be her's a zeal of Public Spirit known,  
A princely Zeal!—a Spirit all your own!  
Where never science beam'd a friendly ray,  
Where once vast blank neglected nature lay,  
From Public Spirit there, by arts employ'd,  
Creation, varying, glads the chequer'd void.  
Hail, Arts! where safety, treasure, and delight,  
On land, on wave, in woodroon works unite. 20

Those wondrous works, O Muse ! successive raise,  
And point their worth, their dignity, and praise.

What tho' no streams magnificently play'd,  
Rise a proud column, fall a grand cascade ?  
Thro' nether pipes, which nobler use renowns, 15  
Lo ! ductile riv'lets visit distant towns.

Now vanish fens, whence vapors rise no more,  
Whose aguish influence tainted heav'n before :  
The solid isthmus sinks a wat'ry space,  
And wonders, in new state, at naval grace. 20

Where the flood deep'ning rolls, or wide extends,  
From road to road you arch connective bends :  
Where ports were choak'd, where mounds in vain  
arose,

There harbors open, and there breaches close ;  
To keels obedient spreads each liquid plain, 25  
And bulwark moles, repel the boist'rous main.  
When the sunk sun no homeward sail befriends,  
On the rock's brow the lighthouse kind ascends,  
And from the shoally, o'er the gulfy way,  
Points to the pilot's eye the warning ray. 30

Count still, my Muse ! (to count, what Muse  
can cease ?)

The works of Public Spirit, freedom, peace.  
By them shall plants in forests reach the skies,  
Then lose their leafy guide, and navies rise ;  
(Navies ! which, to invasive foes, explain 35  
Heav'n throws not round us rocks and seas in vain)  
The sail of Commerce in each sky aspires,  
And Property secures what Toil acquires.

Who digs the mine or quarry digs with glee;  
 No slave—his option and his gain are free: 40  
 Him, the same laws, the same protection yield,  
 Who plows the furrow, as who owns the field.

Unlike, where Tyranny the rod maintains  
 O'er turfless, leafless, and uncultur'd plains.  
 Here herbs of food and physic plenty show'rs, 45  
 Gives fruits to blush, and colors various flow'rs.  
 Where sands or stony wilds once starv'd the year,  
 Laughs the green lawn, and nods the golden ear;  
 White shine the Fleecy race, which Fate shall  
 doom

The feast of life, the treasure of the loom. 50

On plains now bare, shall gardens wave their  
 groves,

While settling songsters woo their feather'd love;  
 Where pathless woods no grateful op'nings knew,  
 Walks tempt the step, and vistas court the view.  
 See the parterre confess expansive day, 55  
 The grot elusive of the noon-tide ray:

Up yon green slope a length of terrace lies,  
 Whence gradual landscapes fade in distant skies.  
 Now the blue lake, reflected heav'n displays,  
 Now darkens, regularly wild, the main; 60  
 Urns, obelisks, fane, statues, intervene,  
 Now centre, now terminate, or end the scene.

Lo! proud alcoves; lo! soft sequester'd bow'rs  
 Retreats of social, or of studious hours:  
 Rank above rank here shapely greens ascend, 65  
 There others, nativcly grotesque depend:

How, the delicate, immingled, tell  
 How Art would Nature, Nature Art excel,  
 And how, while these their rival charms impart,  
 Art brightens Nature, Nature brightens Art; 70  
 Thus, in the various yet harmonious space,  
 Blend order, symmetry, and force and grace.

When these, from Public Spirit, smile, we see  
 Free op'ning gates and bow'ry pleasures free;  
 For sure great souls one truth can never miss, 75  
 Bliss not communicated is not bliss.

Thus Public Spirit, liberty, and peace,  
 Carve, build, and plant, and give the land increase;  
 From peasant hands imperial works arise,  
 And British hence, with Roman grandeur vies; 80  
 Not grandeur that in pompous whim appears,  
 That levels hills, that vales to mountains tears,  
 That alters Nature's regulated grace,  
 Meaning to deck, but destin'd to deface.

Tho' no proud gates with China taught to vie, 85  
 Magnificently useless strike the eye;

(Useless where rocks a surer barrier lend,  
 Where seas encircle, and where fleets defend)

What tho' no arch of triumph is assign'd  
 To laurell'd pride, whose sword has thinn'd man-  
 kind? 90

Tho' no vast wall extends from coast to coast,  
 No pyramid rears, sublimely lost?  
 For the safe land, thro' rocks, shall winding send,  
 And the firm canopy o'er the clay ground

Lo! stately streets; lo! ample squares invite  
 The salutary gale that breathes delight.  
 Lo! structures mark the charitable soil  
 For casual ill, maim'd valor, feeble toil;  
 Worn out with care, infirmity, and age;  
 The life, here entering; quitting, there, the stage;  
 The babe of lawless birth, doom'd else to moan,  
 To starve or bleed for errors not his own.  
 Let the frail mother 'scape the fame defil'd,  
 If from the murd'ring mother, 'scape the child!  
 Oh! guard his youth from sin's alluring voice, 105  
 From deeds of dire necessity not choice!  
 His grateful hand, thus never harmful known,  
 Shall on the public welfare build his own.

Thus worthy crafts, which low-born life divide,  
 Give towns their opulence and courts their pride;  
 Sacred to pleasure structures rise elate, 111  
 To that still worthy of the wise and great:  
 Sacred to pleasure then shall piles ascend?  
 They shall—when pleasure and instruction blend.  
 Let theatres from Public Spirit shine, 115  
 Such theatre as, Athens! once were thine.  
 See! the gay Muse, of pointed wit possess;  
 Who wakes the virtuous laugh, the decent jest,  
 What tho' she mock, she mocks with honest aim,  
 And laughs each fop's vice folly into shame: 120  
 With lib'ral light the tragic charge she brings,  
 In solemn-arming robes she fills the stage:  
 There human nature, mark'd in different lines,  
 Alive in character distinctly shines:

MISCELLANIES.

~~On~~ Passions change alternate on her face, 125  
 Her diction music, as her action grace;  
 Instant we catch her terror-giving cares,  
 Pathetic sighs and pity-moving tears;  
 Instant we catch her gen'rous glow of soul, 129  
 Till our great striking moral crowns the whole.

Hence in warm youth, by scenes of virtue  
 taught,  
 Honor exalts, and love, expands the thought;  
 Hence pity, to peculiar grief assign'd,  
 Grows wide benevolence to all mankind.

Where various edifice the land renowns, 135  
 There Public Spirit plans, exalts, and crowns;  
 She cheers the mansion with the spacious hall,  
 Bids Painting live along the stor'd wall;  
 Seated, she smiling eyes th' unclosing door,  
 And much she welcomes all, but most the poor:  
 She turns the pillar, or the arch she bends, 141  
 The choir she lengthens, or the choir extends:  
 She rears the tow'r whose height the heav'n's ad-  
 mire;

She rears, she rounds, she points the less'ning  
 spire;

At her command the college-roofs ascend, 145  
 (For Public Spirit still is Learning's friend);  
 Stupendous piles! which useful pomp completes;  
 Thus rise Religion's and thus Learning's seats:  
 These moral truth and holy science spring,  
 And give the sage to teach, the hard working; 150

There some draw health from herbs and mineral  
veins,

Some search the systems of the heav'nly plains ;  
Some call from history past times to view,  
And others trace old laws, and sketch out new ;  
Thence, saving rights by legislators plann'd ; 155  
And guardian patriots thence inspire the land :

Now grant, ye Pow'rs ! one great, one fond de-  
sire,

And, granting, bid a new Whitehall aspire !  
Far let it lead, by well-pleas'd Thames survey'd ;  
The swelling arch and stately colonnade ; 160  
Bid courts of justice, senate-chambers, join,  
Till various all in one proud work combine :

But now be all the gen'rous goddess seen,  
When most diffus'd she shines, and most benign ;  
Ye sons of Misery ! attract her view ; 165  
Ye sallow, hollow-ey'd, and meagre crew !  
Such high perfection have our arts attain'd,  
That now few sons of Toil our arts demand ?  
Then to the Public, to itself, we fear  
Ev'p willing industry grows useless here. 170

Are we too populous at length confus'd,  
From confluent strangers refug'd and redress'd ?  
Has War so long withdrawn his dark'ning train,  
That Peace descends us with the sun of men ?  
So long has plague left pure the nation's mit, 175  
That Want men pray on these, Diseases would  
aspire ?

Hence beauteous wretches, (Beauty's foul disgrace) !  
 Though born the pride, the shame of human race ;  
 Fate wretches hence, who highly streets annoy,  
 Live but themselves and others to destroy ; 180  
 Hence robbers rise, to theft, to murder, prone,  
 First driv'n by want, from habit desp'rate grown ;  
 Hence ~~for~~ <sup>our</sup> d trifles oft our jails contain  
 (Torn from mankind) a miserable train !  
 Torn from, in spite of Nature's tend'rest cries,  
 Parental, filial, and connubial ties : 186

The trader, when on ev'ry side distress,  
 Hence flies to what expedient frauds suggest :  
 To prop his question'd credit's tott'ring state,  
 Others he first involves to share his fate, 190  
 Then for man's refuge must self-exil'd roam,  
 Never to hope a friend nor find a home.

This, Public Spirit sees ! she sees and feels !  
 Her breast, the throb ; her eye, the tear reveals ;  
 (The patriot throb that beats, the tear that flows  
 For others' welfare and for others' woes)— 196  
 ' And what can I,' she said, ' to cure their grief ?  
 ' Shall I or point out death or point relief ?  
 ' Forth shall I lead them to some happier soil,  
 ' To conquest lead them, and enrich with spoil ?  
 ' Bid them convulse a world, make Nature groan,  
 ' And spill, in shedding others' blood, their own ?  
 ' No, no—such wars do thou, Ambition ! wage ;  
 ' Go soothe the fowls with thy rage !  
 ' Whole nations to depopulate is thing ; 205  
 ' To people, culture, and protect, be mine !'



Then range the world, Discovery!—Straits he goes  
 O'er seas, o'er Libya's sands, and Zembla's snows;  
 He settles where kind rays till now have smil'd  
 (Vain smile!) on some luxuriant houseless wild.  
 How many sons of Want might here enjoy   211  
 What Nature gives for age but to destroy?  
 ' Blush, blush, O Sun!' she cries, ' here vainly  
     found,  
 ' To rise, to set, to roll the season round;  
 ' Shall heav'n distil in dew, descend in rain,   215  
 ' From earth gush fountains, rivers flow, in vain?  
 ' There shall the wat'ry lives in myriads stray,  
 ' And be, to be alone each other's prey?  
 ' Unsought shall here the teeming quarries own  
 ' The various species of mechanic stone?   220  
 ' From structure this, from sculpture that, confine?  
 ' Shall racks forbid the latent gem to shine?  
 ' Shall mines, obedient, aid no artist's care,  
 ' Nor give the martial sword and peaceful share?  
 ' Ah! shall they never precious ore unfold,   225  
 ' To smile in silver, or to flare in gold?  
 ' Shall here the vegetable world alone  
 ' For joy, for various virtues, rest unknown?  
 ' While food and physic, plants and herbs supply,  
 ' Here must they stoop alone, to bloom, and die?  
 ' Shall fruits, which none but brutal eyes survey,  
 ' Untouch'd grow ripe, untasted drop away?  
 ' Shall here the irrational, the strongest kind,  
 ' Lord it, after stores by Heav'n for man design'd,

- And trample what mild suns benignly raise, 235  
 ' While man must lose the use, and Heav'n the  
     praise ?  
 ' Shall it then be ?'—(Indignant here she rose,  
 Indignant, yet humane, her bosom glows)—  
 ' No ! by each honor'd Grecian, Roman name,  
 ' By men for virtue deify'd by Fame,           240  
 ' Who peopled lands, who modell'd infant state,  
 ' And then bade empire be maturely great ;  
 ' By these I swear, (be witness Earth and Skies !)  
 ' Fair Order here shall from Confusion rise.  
 ' Rapt, I a future colony survey ;           245  
 ' Come then, ye sons of Mis'ry ! come away :  
 ' Let these, whose sorrows from neglect are known,  
 ' (Here taught, compell'd, empow'r'd,) neglect  
     atone ;  
 ' Let those enjoy who never merit woes,  
 ' In youth th' industrious wish, in age repose ! 250  
 ' Allotted acres (no reluctant soil)  
 ' Shall prompt their industry and pay their toil.  
 ' Let families, long strangers to delight,  
 ' Whom wayward Fate dispers'd, by me unite ;  
 ' Here live enjoying life, see plenty, peace,   255  
 ' Their lands increasing as their sons increase.  
 ' As Nature yet is found in happy glades  
 ' To intermix the walks with lights and shades ;  
 ' Or as with good and ill, in chequer'd swiss,  
 ' Various the goddess colors human life ;   260  
 ' So in this fertile clime, if yet we see  
 ' Moors, marshes, cliffs, by turns to intervene,

- ' Where cliffs, moors, marshes, desolate the view,
- ' Where haunts the bittern, and where screams the mew ;
- ' Where prowls the wolf, where roll'd the serpent lies, 265
- ' Shall solemn fanes and halls of justice rise,
- ' And towns shall open (all of structure fair!)
- ' To bright'ning prospects and to purest air ;
- ' Frequented ports and vineyards green succeed,
- ' And flocks increasing whiten all the mead ; 270
- ' On science science, arts on arts refine ;
- ' On these from high all heav'n shall smiling shine,
- ' And Public Spirit here a people show
- ' Free, num'rous, pleas'd, and busy all below.
- ' Learn, future natives of this promis'd land,
- ' What your forefathers ow'd my saving hand ;
- ' Learn, when despair such sudden bliss shall see,
- ' Such bliss must shine from Oglethorpe or me !
- ' Do you the neighb'ring blameless Indian aid,
- ' Calumet what he neglects, not his invade ; 280
- ' Deth'not, oh I dare not, with ambitious view,
- ' Force or demand subjection never due.
- ' Let, by my specious name, no tyrants rise,
- ' And cry, while they enslave, they civilise.
- ' Know, Liberty and I are still the same, 285
- ' Congruous—ever mingling flame with flame.
- ' Why meet I Afric's sable children here
- ' Vended for slaves, tho' form'd by Nature free,

' The nameless tortures cruel minds invent,  
 ' Those to subject whom Nature equal meant ?  
 ' If these you dare (albeit unjust success      291  
 ' Empow'rs you now unpunish'd to oppress)  
 ' Revolving empire you and yours may doom,  
 ' (Rome, all subdu'd, yet Vandals vanquish'd  
     Rome)  
 ' Yes, empire may revolve, give them the day,  
 ' And yoke may yoke, and blood may blood repay.'  
     Thus (ah ! how far unquall'd by my lays,  
 Unskill'd the heart to melt or mind to raise)  
 Sublime, benevolent, deep, sweetly clear,  
 Worthy a Thomson's Muse, a FREDERICK's ear.  
 Thus spoke the goddess ; thus I faintly tell      301  
 In what lov'd works Heav'n gives her to excel.  
 But who her sons, that, to her int'rest true,  
 Convergent lead her to a prince like you ?  
 These, SIR ! salute you from life's middle state,  
 Rich without gold, and without titles great ;      306  
 Knowledge of books and men exalts their thought,  
 In wit accomplish'd, though in wiles untaught,  
 Careless of whispers meant to wound her name,  
 Nor sneer'd, nor brib'd from virtue into shame,  
 In letters elegant, in honor bright,      311  
 They come, they catch, and they reflect delight,  
     Mixing with these, a few of rank are found  
 For councils, embassies, and camps, renown'd ;  
 Vers'd in gay life, in honest manners repp'd,      315  
 And ever warm of heart, yet cool of head ;

From these the circling glass gives wit to shine,  
The bright grow brighter, and ev'n courts refine;  
From these so gifted, candid, and upright,  
Flows knowledge, soft'ning into ease polite. 320

Happy the men who such a prince can please!  
Happy the prizes rever'd by men like these!  
His condescensions, dignity display,  
Grave with the wise, and with the witty gay;  
For him fine marble in the quarry lies, 325  
Which in due statues to his fame shall rise;  
Ever shall Public Spirit beam his praise,  
And the Muse swell it in immortal lays.

## THE POET'S DEPENDENCE

### ON A STATESMAN,

SOME sects to him, and others profit will bring,  
That seem neglect my man'rous hardships bring.  
'Such the great man,' they cry—'Tis thus de-  
-fined,

In him, if I coast fortune, I succeed.

When friends to scorn? who for me should not  
Have justice, partial to themselves, in sight?  
They own, my matchless fate compensates all;  
They all wish well, lament, but drag my cane.

There are who ask no pension, want no place,  
No title wish, and would accept no grace.

Can I entreat they should for me obtain  
 The least, who greatest for themselves disdain ?  
 'A statesman, knowing this,ankind, will cry,  
 ' Those love him ; let those serve him—why  
 should I ?

So shall I turn where lucre points my views,  
 At first desert my friends, at length abuse ?  
 But, on less terms, in promise be complice ;  
 Years bury years, and hopes on hopes arise :  
 I trust, am trusted, on my fairy gain,  
 And woes on woes attend, an endless train.

Be posts dispos'd at will—I have for these  
 No gold to plead, no impudence to tease.  
 All secret service from my soul I hate,  
 All dark intrigues of pleasure or of state.  
 I have no power election-votes to gain,  
 No will to hackney out polemic strain ;  
 To shape, as time shall serve, my verse or prose  
 To flatter thee, nor slur a courtier's foes ;  
 Nor him to flout with praise if I prevail,  
 Nor shock'd by him with libels to assail ;  
 Where these are not, what claim to me belongs,  
 Tho' near the Muse and virtue, birth and wrongs  
 What lives the statesman so in honor clear,  
 To give where he has sought to hope, nor fear ?  
 No—there no seek, is but to find fresh pain ;  
 The promise broke, renew'd, and broke again ;  
 To be, as honors digna, receiv'd, refus'd,  
 By turns affronted and by turns abus'd ;

To lose that time which worthier thoughts require;  
To lose the health which should those thoughts  
inspire ;

To starve on hope, or, like camelioms, fare  
On ministerial faith, which means but air.

But still, undrooping, I the crew disdain  
Who or by jobs or libels wealth obtain.  
Ne'er let me be, thro' those, from want exempt ;  
In one man's favor, in the world's contempt :  
Worse in my own !—Thro' those, to posts who rise  
Themselves in secret must themselves despise,  
Vile, and more vile, till they at length disclaim  
Not sense alone of glory but of shame.

What tho' I hourly see the servile herd  
For meanness honor'd and for guilt prefer'd ;  
See selfish passion public virtue seem,  
And public virtue an enthusiast dream :  
See favor'd falsehood, innocence bely'd,  
Meekness depress'd, and pow'r-clasped pride ?  
A scene will shew, all righteous vision hide !  
The meek exalted and the proud debas'd !—  
Oh ! to be there—to read that friendly tale  
Where Falshood, Pride, and Statecraft, ~~and~~ <sup>more</sup>  
more !

That ere mankind ere late my breath shall  
claim,

A poet still is anxious after fame,  
What future fame would my ambition crave ?  
This were my wish—could ought my life I save !

Say, when in death my sorrows lie repos'd,  
 That my past life no venial view disclos'd ;  
 Say, I well knew, while in a state obscure,  
 Without the being base, the being poor ;  
 Say, I had parts too mod'rate to transcend,  
 Yet sense to mean, and virtue not I offend ;  
 My heart supplying what my head deny'd,  
 Say that by Pope esteem'd I liv'd and dy'd ;  
 Whose writings the best rules to write could give,  
 Whose life the nobler science how to live.

### THE GENTLEMAN.

ADDRESSED TO JOHN JOLLIFFE, ESQ.

A DECENT mien, an elegance of dress,  
 Words, which, at ease, each winning grace ex-  
 press ;  
 A life, where love, by wisdom polish'd, shines,  
 Where wisdom's self again, by love, refines ;  
 Where we to chance for friendship never trust,  
 Nor ever dread from sudden whim disgust ;  
 The social manners and the heart humane ;  
 A nature ever great, and never vain ;  
 A wit that no licentious partners knows ;  
 The secret that unassuming candour shows ;  
 Bound by narrow principles unshack'd,  
 Slave to no party, bigot to no sect ;



Knowledge of various life, of learning too,  
Thence taste, thence truth, which will from taste  
    ensue ;  
Unwilling censure, tho' a judgment clear,  
A smile indulgent, and that smile sincere ;  
An humble, tho' an elevated mind ;  
A pride its pleasure but to serve mankind :  
If these esteem and admiration raise,  
Give true delight, and gain unflatt'ring praise,  
In one wish'd view, th' accomplish'd man we see ;  
These graces all are thine, and thou art he.

## THE GENIUS OF LIBERTY. A POEM.

Occasioned by the departure of  
THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF ORANGE.  
Written in the year 1734.

MILD rose the Morn ; the face of Nature bright  
Wore one extensive smile of calm and light ;  
Wide o'er the land did hallow'd silence reign,  
Wide o'er the blue diffusion of the main ;  
When, lo ! before me, on the southern shore,  
Stood forth the pow'r whom Albion's sons adore,  
Bless'd Liberty ! whose charge is Albion's isle,  
Whom Reason gives to bloom, and Truth to smile ;  
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Gives Peace to gladden, shelt'ring Law to spread,  
 Beginning to lift aloft her laurell'd head ;  
 Rich Industry to view, with pleasing eyes,  
 Her fleets, her cities, and her harvests rise.  
 In curious emblems ev'ry art exprest,  
 Glow'd from the loom, and brighten'd on his vest :  
 Science in various lights attention won,  
 Wav'd on his robe, and glitter'd in the sun.

- ' My words,' he cry'd, ' my words observance  
 claim ;  
 ' Resound, ye Muses ! and receive them, Fame !  
 ' Here was my station when o'er ocean wide  
 ' The great Third William stretch'd his naval  
 pride :  
 ' I with my sacred influence swell'd his soul,  
 ' Th' enslav'd to free, th' enslaver to control.  
 ' In vain did waves disperse and winds detain ;  
 ' He came, he sav'd ; in his was seen my reign.  
 ' How just, how great, the plan his soul design'd,  
 ' To humble tyrants, and secure mankind !  
 ' Next Marlborough in his steps successful trod ;  
 ' This, godlike plann'd, that, finish'd like a god ;  
 ' And while Oppression fled to realms unknown,  
 ' Europe was free, and Britain glorious shone.  
 ' Where Nassau's race extensive growth display'd,  
 ' There Freedom ever found a shelt'ring shade.  
 ' Still Heav'n is kind.—See ! from the princely  
 spot,  
 ' Millions to bless, the branch suspicious shoot.

' He lives, he flourishes, his honours spread,  
 ' Fair virtues blooming on his youthful head;  
 ' Nurse him, ye heav'nly Dews! ye sunny Rays;  
 ' Into firm health, fair fame, and length of days.

He paus'd; and casting o'er the deep his eye,  
 Where the last billow swells into the sky,  
 Where, in gay vision, round th' horizon's line,  
 The moving clouds with various beauty shine;  
 As drooping from their bosom, ting'd with gold,  
 Shoots forth a sail, amusive to behold;  
 Lo! while its light the glowing wave returns,  
 Broad like a sun the bark approaching burns:  
 Near, and more near, great Nassau soon he spy'd,  
 And beautiful Anna! Britain's eldest pride!  
 Thus spoke the Genius as advanc'd the sail—  
 ' Hail, blooming Hero! high-born Princess! hail;  
 ' Thy charms thy mother's love of truth display,  
 ' Her light of virtue, and her beauty's ray;  
 ' Her dignity, which, copying the divine,  
 ' Soften'd thro' condescension, loves to shine:  
 ' Greatness of thought, with prudence for its guide,  
 ' Knowledge from nature and from art supply'd,  
 ' To noblest objects pointed various ways,  
 ' Pointed by Judgment's clear unerring rays.'

What manly virtues in her mind excel!  
 Yet on her heart what tender passions dwell!  
 For, ah! what pangs did late her peace destroy,  
 To part with thee, so wont to give her joy!  
 How heav'd her breast! how sadden'd was her  
 All in the mother then was lost the queen's (mien!

The swelling tear then dimm'd her parting view,  
The struggling sigh stopp'd short her last adieu :  
Ev'n now thy fancy'd perils fill her mind,  
The secret rock, rough wave, and rising wind,  
The shoal so treach'rous near the tempting land,  
Th' ingulfing whirlpool, and the swallowing sand ;  
These fancy'd perils all, by day, by night,  
In thoughts alarm her, and in dreams affright !  
For thee her heart unceasing love declares,  
In doubts, in hopes, in wishes, and in pray'rs !  
Her pray'rs are heard—For me, 'tis thine to brave  
The sand, the shoal, rock, whirlpool, wind, and  
wave :

Kind safety waits to waft thee gently o'er,  
And Joy to greet thee on the Belgic shore.

May future times, when their fond praise would  
tell

How most their fav'rite characters excel,  
How bless'd ! how great !—then may their songs  
declare

So great ! so bless'd ! such Anne and Nassau were.

## THE ANIMALCULE.

## A TALE.

Occasioned by his Grace the Duke of Rutland's receiving the  
small-pox by inoculation.

**I**N Animalcules, Muse! display  
Spirits of name unknown in song.  
Reader! a kind attention pay,  
Nor think an useful comment long.

Far less than mites, on mites they prey;  
Minutest things may swarms contain:  
When o'er your iv'ry teeth they stray,  
Then throb your little nerves with pain.

Fluids in drops minutely swell;  
These subtil beings each contains;  
In the small sanguine globes they dwell,  
Roll from the heart, and trace the veins.

Thro' ev'ry tender tube they rove,  
In finer spirits strike the brain,  
Wind quick thro' ev'ry fibrous grove,  
And seek thro' pores, the heart again.

If they with purer drops dilate,  
And lodge where entry began,  
They actuate with a genial heat,  
And kindle into future man.

But when our lives are Nature's due,  
Air, seas, nor fire, their frames dissolve,  
They matter thro' all forms pursue,  
And oft' to genial heats revolve.

Thus once an Animalcule prov'd,  
When man, a patron to the bays,  
This patron was in Greece belov'd,  
Yet fame was faithless to his praise.

In Rome this Animalcule grew  
Mecænas, whom the Classics rate ;  
Among the Gauls it prov'd Richlieu,  
In learning, pow'r, and bounty great.

In Britain Halifax it rose ;  
(By Halifax bloom'd Congreve's strains)  
And now it, rediminish'd, glows  
To glide thro' godlike Rutland's veins.

A plague there is, too many know,  
Too seldom perfect cures befall it ;  
The Muse may term it Beauty's foe,  
In physic the Small-pox we call it.

From Turks we learn this plague t' assuage,  
They, by admitting, turn its course ;  
Their kiss will tame the tumor's rage ;  
By yielding they o'ercome the force.

Thus Rutland did its touch invite,  
While, watchful in the ambient air,  
This little guardian, subtle spright,  
Did with the poison in repair.

Th' infection from the heart it clears ;  
Th' infection now dilated thin,  
In pearly pimples but appears,  
Expell'd upon the surface skin.

And now it, mouldring, wastes away :  
'Tis gone !—doom'd to return no more ;  
Our Animalcule keeps its stay,  
And must new labyrinths explore.

And now the noble's thoughts are seen,  
Unmark'd, it views his heart's desires ;  
It now reflects what it has been,  
And, rapt'rous, at his change admires.

Its pristine virtues kept, combine,  
To be again in Rutland known ;  
But they, immers'd, no longer shine,  
Nor equal, nor increase his own.

# THE EMPLOYMENT OF BEAUTY.

## A POEM.

ADDRESSED TO MRS. BRIDGET JONES,

A young widow lady of Llanelli, Caermarthenshire.

ONCE Beauty, wishing fond desire to move,  
 Contriv'd to catch the heart of wand'ring Love.  
 Come, purest Atoms! Beauty aid implores;  
 For new soft texture leave ethereal stores.  
 They come, they crowd, they shining hues unfold.  
 Be theirs a form which Beauty's self shall mould!  
 To mould my charmer's form she all apply'd—  
 Whence Cambria boasts the birth of Nature's pride.  
 She calls the Graces—Such is Beauty's state,  
 Prompt at her call th' obedient Graces wait.  
 First your fair feet they shape, and shape to please;  
 Each stands design'd for dignity and ease.  
 Firm on these curious pedestals depend  
 Two polish'd pillars, which as fair ascend;  
 From well-wrought knees, more fair, more large they  
 Seen by the Muse, tho' hid from mortal eyes: [rise,  
 More polish'd yet your fabric, each sustains  
 That purest temple where perfection reigns.  
 A small sweet circle forms your faultless waist,  
 By Beauty shap'd, to be by Love embrac'd.  
 Beyond that less'ning waist two orbs devise;  
 What swelling charms in fair proportion rise;



Fresh peeping there two blushing buds are found,  
 Each like a rose, which lilies white surround:  
 There feeling sense let pitying sighs inspire,  
 Till panting pity swells to warm desire:  
 Desire, tho' warm, is chaste; each warmest kiss  
 All rapture chaste, when Hymen bids the bliss.  
 Rounding and soft, two taper arms descend:  
 Two snow-white hands in taper fingers end.  
 Lo! cunning Beauty on each palm designs  
 Love's fortune, and your own, in mystic lines;  
 And lovely whiteness either arm contains,  
 Diversify'd with azure wand'ring veins;  
 The wand'ring veins conceal a gen'rous flood,  
 The purple treasure of celestial blood.  
 Rounding and white your neck, as curious rears  
 O'er all a face where Beauty's self appears.  
 Her soft attendants smooth the spotless skin,  
 And smoothly-oval, turn the shapely chin;  
 The shapely chin to Beauty's rising face  
 Shall, doubling gently, give a double grace,  
 And soon, sweet op'ning, rosy lips disclose,  
 The well-rang'd teeth in lily whit'ning rows.  
 Here life is breath'd, and florid life assumes  
 A breath, whose fragrance vies with vernal blooms;  
 And two fair cheeks give modesty to raise  
 A beauteous blush at praise, tho' just the praise:  
 And Nature now, from each kind ray, supplies  
 Soft clement smiles, and love-inspiring eyes;  
 New graces to those eyes mild shades allow,  
 Fringe their fair lids, and pencil either brow:

While sense of vision lights up orbs so rare,  
 May none but pleasing objects visit there !  
 Two little porches, (which one sense empow'rs  
 To draw rich scent from aromatic flow'rs)  
 In structure neat, and deck'd with polish'd grace,  
 Shall equal first, then heighten Beauty's face.  
 To smelling sense, oh ! may the flow'ry year  
 Its first, last choicest, incense offer here !  
 Transparent next, two curious crescents bound  
 The two-fold entrance of inspiring sound,  
 And granting a new pow'r of sense to hear,  
 New finer organs from each curious ear,  
 Form to imbibe what most the soul can move,  
 Music and reason, poesy and love.

Next on an open front is pleasing wrought  
 A pensive sweetness, born of patient Thought:  
 Above your luscious shoulders locks display'd,  
 Prone to descend, shall soften light with shade ;  
 All with a nameless air and mien unite,  
 And as you move each movement is delight :  
 Tun'd is your melting tongue and equal mind,  
 At once by knowledge heightn'd and refin'd.

The Virtues next to Beauty's nod incline,  
 For where they tend, not light she cannot shine ;  
 Let these the temp'rous senses of taste reveal,  
 And give while Nature spreads the simple meal,  
 The palate pure, so relish health design'd,  
 From luxury as saintless as your mind.  
 The Virtues chastity and truth impart,  
 And mould to sweet benevolence your heart.

Thus Beauty finish'd—thus she gains the sway,  
 And Love still follows where she leads the way.  
 From e'vry gift of Heav'n to charm is thine;  
 To love, to praise, and to adore, be mine.

## VALENTINE'S DAY.

## A POEM,

ADDRESSED TO A YOUNG WIDOW LADY.

ADIEU, ye Rocks that witness'd once my flame,  
 Return'd my sighs, and eccho'd Chloe's name!  
 Cambria, farewell!—my Chloe's charms no more  
 Invite my steps along Llanelly's shore;  
 There no wild dens conceal voracious fets,  
 The beach no fierce amphibious monster knows,  
 No crocodile there flash'd with prey appears,  
 And o'er that bleeding prey weeps cruel tears;  
 No false hyæna, feigning human grief,  
 There murders him whose goodness meant relief;  
 Yet tides, conspiring with unfaithful ground,  
 Tho' distant seen, with treach'rous arms surround;  
 There quicksands, thick as Beauty's snarls, annoy,  
 Look fair to tempt, and whom they tempt destroy.  
 I watch'd the tides, I pac'd the sands with care,  
 Escap'd, but wildly rush'd on Beauty's snare.

Ah!—Better far, than by that snare o'erpow'r'd  
Had sands ingulf'd me, or had seas devour'd.

Far from that shore where Syren Beauty dwells,  
And wraps sweet ruin in resistless spells;  
From Cambrian plains, which Chloe's lustre boast,  
Me native England yields a safer coast.  
Chloe, farewell!—Now seas, with boist'rous pride,  
Divide us, and will ever far divide;  
Yet while each plant, which vernal youth resumes,  
Feels the green blood ascend in future blooms;  
While little feather'd songsters of the air  
In woodlands tuneful woo and fondly pair,  
The Muse exults, to Beauty tunes the lyre,  
And willing Loves the swelling notes inspire.

Sure on this day, when hope attains success,  
Bright Venus first did young Adonis bless:  
Her charms not brighter, Chloe! sure than thine;  
Tho' flush'd his youth, nor more his warmth than  
Sequester'd far within a myrtle grove, [mine.  
Whose blooming bosom courts retiring Love;  
Where a clear sun the blue serene displays,  
And sheds thro' vernal air attemper'd rays;  
Where flow'rs their aromatic incense bring,  
And fragrant flourish in eternal spring;  
There mate to mate each dove responsive cooes,  
While this assents as that enamour'd woos:  
There rills amusive send from rocks around  
A solitary, pleasing, murmur'ing sound,  
Then form a limpid lake. The lake serene  
Reflects the wonders of the blissful scene

To love the birds attend their chirping throats,  
 And on each breeze immortal music floats.  
 There, seated on a rising turf is seen,  
 Graceful in loose array the Cyprian queen;  
 All fresh and fair all mild as Ocean gave  
 The goddess, rising from the azure wave;  
 Dishevel'd locks distill celestial dew,  
 And all her limbs divine perfumes diffuse,  
 Her voice so charms the plummy warbling throngs,  
 In list'ning wonder lost, suspend their songs.  
 It sounds—'Why lingers my Adonis?'—cry,  
 'Why lingers my Adonis?'—rocks reply.  
 'Oh! come away!'—they thrice repeating say,  
 And Echo thrice repeats,—'Oh! come away!  
 Kind zephyrs waft them to her lover's ears,  
 Who instant at her enchanting call appears.  
 Her placid eye, where sparkling joy refines,  
 Benignant with alluring lustre shines  
 His locks, which in loose ringlets charm the view,  
 Float careless, from their lucid amber hue.  
 A myrtle wreath her rosy fingers frame,  
 Which from her hand his polish'd temples claim;  
 His temples far a streaking beauty stains,  
 As smooth white marble shines with azure veins.  
 He kneel'd: her snowy hand he trembling seiz'd,  
 Just lifted to his lip, and gently squeez'd;  
 The meaning squeeze return'd, Love caught its love,  
 And enter'd at his palm thro' ev'ry pore;  
 Then swell'd her downy breasts, till then inclos'd,  
 Fast-heaving, half conceal'd and half expos'd:

Soft she reclines. He, as they fall and rise,  
 Hangs hov'ring o'er them with enamour'd eyes,  
 And, warm'd, grows wanton—As he thus admir'd,  
 He pry'd, he touch'd, and with the touch was fir'd.  
 Half angry, yet half pleas'd, her frown beguiles  
 The boy to fear; but at his fear she smiles.  
 The youth less tim'rous, and the fair less coy,  
 Supinely am'rous they reclining toy.  
 More am'rous still his sanguine meanings stole  
 In wistful glances to her soft'ning soul;  
 In her fair eye her soft'ning soul he reads:  
 To freedom freedom, boon to boon succeeds.  
 With conscious blush th'impassion'd charmer burns,  
 And blush for blush th'impassion'd youth returns.  
 They look, they languish, sigh with pleasing pain,  
 And wish and gaze, and gaze and wish again.  
 'Twixt her white parting bosom steals the boy,  
 And more than hope preludes tumultuous joy;  
 Thro' ev'ry vein the vig'rous transport ran;  
 Strung ev'ry nerve, and brac'd the boy to man.  
 Struggling, yet yielding, half o'erpow'r'd, she pants,  
 Seems to deny, and yet denying grants.  
 Quick, like the tendrils of a curling vine,  
 Fond limbs with limbs in am'rous folds entwine:  
 Lips press on lips, caressing and carest,  
 Now eye darts flame to eye, and breast to breast:  
 All she resigns, at dear desires incite,  
 And rapt he reach'd the brink of full delight.  
 Her waist compress'd in his exulting arms,  
 He storms, explores, and rises all her charms;

Clasp in extatic bliss th' expiring fair,  
 And thrilling, melting, nestling, riots there.  
 How long the rapture lasts, how soon it fleets,  
 How oft it pauses, and how oft repeats,  
 What joys they both receive and both bestow  
 Virgins may guess, but wives experienc'd know:  
 From joys like these (ah! why deny'd to me?)  
 Sprung a fresh blooming boy, my Fair! from thee.  
 May he, a new Adonis, lift his crest  
 In all the florid grace of youth confest!  
 First let him learn to lisp your lover's name,  
 And when he reads, here annual read my flame.  
 When beauty first shall wake his genial fire,  
 And the first tingling sense excite desire;  
 When the dear object, of his peace possess,  
 Gains and still gains on his unguarded breast,  
 Then may he say, as he this verse reviews,  
 So my bright mother charm'd the poet's Muse;  
 His heart thus flutter'd oft 'twixt doubt and fear,  
 Lighten'd with hope, and sadden'd with despair.  
 Say, on some rival did she smile too kind?  
 Ah! read—what jealousy distracts his mind!  
 Smil'd she on him? he imag'd rays divine,  
 And gaz'd and gladden'd with a love like mine.  
 How dwelt her praise upon his raptur'd tongue!  
 Ah! when she frown'd, what plaintive notes he sung!  
 And could she frown on him—Ah! wherefore tell;  
 On him, whose only crime was loving well?  
 Thus may the son his pangs with mine compare,  
 Then wish his mother had been kind as fair.

For him may love the myrtle wreath entwine,  
 Tho' the sad willow suits a woe like mine :  
 Ne'er may the fatal hope, like me complain ;  
 Ah ! never sigh and bleed like me in vain.—

When death affords that peace which Love de-  
 Ah ! no—far other scenes my fate supplies ; [mies,  
 When earth to earth my tithless corse is laid,  
 And o'er it hangs the veiled cypress shade ;  
 When pale I flit along the dreary coast,  
 An hapless lover's pining plaintive ghost ;  
 Here annual on this dear returning day,  
 While feather'd chorists renew the melting lay,  
 May you, my Fair ! when you these strains shall see,  
 Just spare one sigh, one tear to love and me ;  
 Me who, in absence or in death, adore  
 Those heav'nly charms I must behold no more.

## LONDON AND BRISTOL.

### DELINEATED \*.

Two sea-port cities mark Britannia's fame,  
 And these, from commerce, diff'rent honors claim.  
 What diff'rent honors shall the Muses pay,  
 While one inspires and one untunes the lay ?

Now silver Isis bright'ning flows along,  
 Echoing from Oxford shore each classic song,

\* The Author preferred this title to that of *London and Bristol compared*, which, when he began the piece, he intended to prefix to it.



Then weds with Thame ; and these O London ! see  
 Swelling with naval pride, the pride of thee !  
 Wide, deep, unsully'd, Thames meand'ring glides  
 And bears thy wealth on mild majestic tides.  
 Thy ships, with gilded palaces that vie  
 In glut'ring pomp, strike wond'ring China's eye ;  
 And thence returning bear, in splendid state,  
 To Britain's merchants, India's eastern freight.  
 India her treasures from her western shores,  
 Due at thy feet, a willing tribute pours ;  
 Thy warring navies distant nations awe,  
 And bid the world obey thy righteous law.  
 Thus shine thy manly sons of lib'ral mind,  
 Thy Change deep-busy'd, yet as courts refin'd ;  
 Councils, like senates, that enforce debate  
 With fluent eloquence and reason's weight ;  
 Whose patriot virtue lawless Pow'r controls,  
 Their British, emulating Roman souls :  
 Of these the worthiest still selected stand,  
 Still lead the senate, and still save the land :  
 Social, not selfish here, O Learning ! trace  
 Thy friends, the lovers of all human race.

In a dark bottom sunk, O Bristol ! now  
 With native malice lift thy low'ring brow ;  
 Then as some hell-born sprite in mortal guise  
 Borrows the shape of Goodness and belies,  
 All fair, all smug, to yon proud hall invite,  
 To feast all strangers ape an air polite ;  
 From Cambria drain'd, or England's western coast,  
 Not elegant, yet easily banquetts boast !

Revere, or seem the stranger to revere;  
Praise, fawn, profess, be all things but sincere;  
Insidious now, our bosom secrets steal,  
And these with sly sarcastic sneer, reveal.  
Present we meet thy sneaking treach'rous smiles;  
The harmless absent still thy sneer reviles:  
Such as in thee all parts superior find,  
The sneer that marks the fool and knave combin'd:  
When melting Pity would afford relief,  
The ruthless sneer that insult adds to grief.  
What friendship canst thou boast? what honors  
claim?

To thee each stranger owes an injur'd name.  
What smiles thy sons must in their foes excite!  
Thy sons! to whom all discord is delight;  
From whom eternal mutual railing flows;  
Who in each other's crimes their own expose:  
Thy son's! tho' crafty, deaf to Wisdom's call,  
Despising all men, and despis'd by all;  
Sons! while thy cliffs a ditch-like river laves,  
Rude as thy rocks, and muddy as thy waves,  
Of thoughts as narrow as of words immense,  
As full of turbulence as void of sense?  
Thee, thee, what senatorial souls adorn!  
Thy natives, sure, would prove a senate's scorn.  
Do strangers deign to serve thee; what their  
praise;  
Their gen'rous services thy murmurs raise.  
What fiend malign, that o'er thy air presides,  
Around from breast to breast inherent glides,

And as he glides there scatters in a trice  
The lurking seeds of ev'ry rank device?  
Let foreign youths to thy indentures run,  
Each, each will prove, in thy adopted son,  
Proud, pert, and dull—tho' brilliant once from  
schools.

Cut off from service due to kindred blood,  
 To private welfare and to public good;  
 Pity'd by all but thee, he sentenc'd lies,  
 Imprison'd languishes, imprison'd dies.

*	*	*	*	*	*	*
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Boast swarming vessels, whose plebeian state  
 Owes not to merchants but mechanics freight;  
 Boast nought but pedlar fleets—in war's alarms  
 Unknown to glory as unknown to arms:  
 Boast thy base Tolsey \*, and thy turnspit dogs.  
 Thy Halliers' †horses, and thy human hogs;  
 Upstarts and mushrooms, proud relentless hearts!  
 Thou blank of science! and thou dearth of arts;  
 Such foes as learning once was doom'd to see,  
 Huns, Goths, and Vandals were but types of thee!

Proceed, great Bristol! in all righteous ways,  
 And let one justice heighten yet thy praise;  
 Still spare the catamite and swinge the whore,  
 And be what'er Gomorrah was before.

\* A place where the merchants used to meet to transact their affairs before the Exchange was erected. See *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. xiii. p. 496.

† Halliers are the persons who drive or own the sledges which are here used instead of carts.

## ON FALSE HISTORIANS.

A SATIRE.

SURE of all plagues with which dull prose is  
 curst,

Scandals from False Historians, spot the worst :  
 In quest of these the Muse shall first advance,  
 Bold to explore the regions of romance ;  
 Romance call'd Hist'ry—Lo ! at once she skims  
 The visionary world of monkish whims ;  
 Where fallacy in legends wildly shines,  
 And vengeance glares from violated shrines ;  
 Where saints perform all tricks, and startle thought  
 With many a miracle that ne'er was wrought :  
 Saints that ne'er liv'd, or such as justice paints,  
 Jugglers on superstition palm'd for saints.  
 Here canonized let creed-mongers be shown,  
 Red-letter'd saints, and red assassins known ;  
 While those they martyr'd such as angels rose !  
 All black enroll'd among Religion's foes,  
 Snatch'd by sulphurous clouds, a Lye proclaims  
 Number'd with fiends, and plung'd in endless flames.

Hist'ry from air or deep draws many a spright.  
 Such as from nurse or priest might boys affright.  
 Or such, as but o'er sev'rish slumbers fly,  
 And fix in melancholy Frenzy's eye.  
 Now meteors make enthusiast wonder stare,  
 And image wild portentous wars in air !

Seers fall entranc'd! some wizards lawless skill  
 Now whirls, now fetters, Nature's works at will!  
 Thus His'try, by machine, a mock epic seems,  
 Not from poetic but from monkish dreams.  
 The devil, who priest and sorcerer must obey,  
 The sorcerer us'd to raise, the parson lay.  
 When Echard wav'd his pen, then His'try shows  
 The parson conjured, and the fiend uprose.  
 A camp at distance, and the scene a wood,  
 Here enter'd Noll, and there old Satan stood.  
 No tail his rump, his foot no hoof reveal'd;  
 Like a wise cuckold, with his horns conceal'd;  
 Not a gay serpent glitt'ring to the eye,  
 But more than serpent or than harlot sly;  
 For lawyer-like, a fiend no wit can 'scape,  
 The demon stands confess'd in proper shape;  
 Now spreads his parchment, now is sign'd the scroll  
 Thus Noll gains empire, and the Devil has Noll.

Wondrous Historian! thus account for evil,  
 And thus for its success—'tis all the devil.  
 Tho' ne'er that devil we saw, yet one we see—  
 One of an author sure, and—thou art he.

But dusky phantoms, Muse! no more pursue;  
 Now clearer objects open—yet untrue.  
 Awful the genuine Historian's name;  
 False ones—with what materials build they fame?  
 Fabrics of fame, by dirty means made good.  
 As nests of martin's are compil'd of mud.  
 Peace be with Curll!—with him I wave all strife,  
 Who pens each felon's and each actor's life.

Biography that cooks the devil's martyrs,  
And lards with luscious rapes the cheats of Chartres.

Materials which belief in Gazettes claim,  
Loose-strung, run jingling into History's name:  
Thick as Egyptian clouds of raining flies,  
As thick as worms where man corrupting lies:  
As pests obscene, that haunt the ruin'd pile,  
As monsters flound'ring in the muddy Nile;  
Minutes, Memoirs, Views, and Reviews, appear,  
Where slander darkens each recorded year,  
In a past reign is feign'd some am'rous league;  
Some ring or letter now reveals th' intrigue:  
Queens with their minions work unseemly things,  
And boys grow dukes when catamites to kings.  
Does a prince die? what poisons they surmise!  
No royal mortal, sure, by nature dies.  
Is a prince born? what birth more base believ'd!  
Or, what's more strange, his mother ne'er conceiv'd!

Thus slander popular o'er truth prevails,  
And easy minds imbibe romantic tales;  
Thus, 'stead of History, such authors raise  
More crude wild novels of bad hints for plays.

Some usurp names—an English garretier,  
From minutes forg'd is Monsieur Mesnager\*.

\* The *Mémoires* of Mons. Mesnager, a book calculated to vivify the admiration in the four last years of Queen Anne's reign. The truth is, that this libel was not written by Mons. Mesnager, neither was any such book ever printed in the French tongue, from which it impudently said in the title-page to be translated, *Abécédaire*.

Some, while on good or ill success they stare,  
Give conduct a complexion dark or fair :  
Others, as little to inquiry prone,  
Account for actions tho' their spring's unknown.

One statesman vices has, and virtues too,  
Hence will contested character ensue.  
View but the black, he's fiend; the bright but scan,  
He's angel: view him all—he's still a man.  
But such Historians all accuse, acquit;  
No virtue these, and those no vice admit:  
For either in a friend no fault will know,  
And neither own a virtue in a foe.

Where hearsay-knowledge, sits on public names;  
And bold conjecture or extols or blames,—  
Spring party-libels, from whose ashes dead  
A monster, misnam'd Hist'ry lifts its head;  
Contending factions crowd to hear its roar,  
But when once heard it dies to noise no more:  
From these no answer, no applause from those,  
O'er half they simper and o'er half they doze.  
So when in Senate, with egregious pate,  
Perks up Sir——in some deep debate,  
He hems, looks wise, tuncs thin his lab'ring throat,  
To prove black white, postpone or palm the vote:  
In sly contempt some 'Hear him! hear him!' cry;  
Some yawn, some sneer; none second, none reply.

But dare such miscreants now to rush abroad,  
By blanket, cane, pump, pillory, unaw'd?  
Dare they imp Falsehood thus, and plume her wings,  
From present characters and recent things?



Yes : what untruths ! or truths in what disguise !  
What Boyers and what Oldmixons arise !  
What facts from all but them and Slander screen'd ?  
Here meets a council, no where else conven'd ;  
There, from originals, come thick as spawn  
Letters ne'er wrote, memorials never drawn ;  
To secret conference ne'er held they yoke  
Treaties ne'er plann'd, and speeches never spoke.  
From Oldmixon ! thy brow, too well we know,  
Like sin from Satan, far and wide they go,

In vain may St. John safe in conscience sit,  
In vain with truth confute, condemn with wit ;  
Confute, condemn, amid selected friends,  
There sinks the justice, there the satire ends,  
Here, tho' a cent'ry scarce such leaves unclose,  
From mould and dust the slander sacred grows.  
Now none reply where all despise the page ;  
But will dumb scorn deceive no future age ?  
Then should dull periods cloud not seeming fact,  
Will no fine pen th' unanswer'd lie extract ?  
Well-set in plan, and polish'd into style,  
Fair and more fair may finish'd fraud beguile ;  
By ev'ry language snatch'd, by time receiv'd,  
In ev'ry clime, by ev'ry age, believ'd.  
How vain to virtue trust the great their name,  
When such their lot for infamy or fame !

ON THE RECOVERY  
OF A  
A LADY OF QUALITY

FROM THE SMALL-POX.

LONG a lov'd fair had bless'd her consort's sight  
With am'rous pride and undisturb'd delight,  
Till death, grown envious, with repugnant aim  
Frown'd at their joys, and urg'd a tyrant's claim.  
He summons each disease—the noxious crew,  
Writhing in dire distortions, strike his view;  
From various plagues, which various natures know,  
Forth rushes Beauty's fear'd and fervent foe.  
Fierce to the fair the missile mischief flies,  
The sanguine streams in raging ferments rise:  
It drives, omnipotent, thro' ev'ry vein,  
Hangs on the heart, and burns around the brain.  
Now a chill damp the charmer's lustre dims;  
Sad o'er her eyes the livid langor swims;  
Her eyes, that with a glance could joy inspire,  
Like setting stars, scarce shoot a glimm'ring fire.  
Here stands a consort, sore with anguish prest,  
Grief in his eye and terror in his breast:  
The Paphian Graces, smit with anxious care,  
In silent sorrow weep the wailing fair.  
Eight suns successive roll their fire away,  
And eight slow nights see their deep shades decay:  
While these revolve, tho' mute each Muse appears,  
Each speaking eye drops eloquence in tears.

On the ninth noon great Phœbus list'ning bands;  
On the ninth noon each voice in pray'r ascends—  
Great God of Light, of Song, and Physic's art!  
Restore the languid fair, new soul impart;  
Her beauty, wit, and virtue, claim thy care,  
And thy own bounty's almost rival'd there.

Each paus'd: the god assents. Would death  
advance?

Phœbus, unseen, arrests the threat'ning lance;  
Down from his orb a vivid influence streams,  
And quick'ning earth imbibes salubrious beams;  
Each balmy plant increase of virtue knows,  
And Art, inspir'd with all her patron, glows;  
The charmer's op'ning eye kind hope reveals,  
Kind hope her consort's breast enliv'ning feels;  
Each grace revives, each Muse resumes the lyre,  
Each beauty brightens with relumin'd fire:  
As Health's auspicious pow'rs gay life display,  
Death, sullen at the sight, stalks slow away.

## VERSES

Occasioned by the Right Hon.

### THE LADY VISCOUNTESS TYRCONNEL'S RECOVERY AT BATH.

WHERE Thames, with pride, beholds Augusta's  
And either India pours into her arms; [charms,  
Where Liberty bids honest arts abound,  
And pleasures dance in one eternal round;

High-thron'd appears the laughter-loving dame,  
Goddess of Mirth, Euphrosyne her name;  
Her smile more cheerful than a vernal morn,  
All life! all bloom! of Youth and Fancy born:  
Touch'd into joy what hearts to her submit!  
She looks her sire, and speaks her mother's wit.  
O'er the gay world the sweet inspirer reigns;  
Spleen flies, and Elegance her pomp sustains.  
Thee, Goddess! thee the fair and young obey;  
Wealth, Wit, Love, Music, all confess thy sway.  
In the bleak wild ev'n Want by thee is blest,  
And pamper'd Pride without thee pines for rest.  
The rich grow richer while in thee they find  
The matchless treasure of a smiling mind.  
Science by thee flows soft in social ease,  
And Virtue, losing rigor, learns to please.  
The goddess summons each illustrious name,  
Bids the gay talk, and forms th' amusive game.  
She whose fair throne is fix'd in human souls,  
From joy to joy her eye delighted rolls.  
'But where,' she cry'd, 'is she, my fav'rite! she  
'Of all my race the dearest far to me!  
'Whose life's the life of each refin'd delight?'  
She said—but no Tyrconnel glads her sight:  
Swift sunk her laughing eyes in languid fear;  
Swift rose the swelling sigh and trembling tear;  
In kind low murmurs all the loss deplore;  
Tyrconnel droops, and pleasure is no more!  
The goddess, silent, paus'd in museful air,  
But Mirth, like Virtue, cannot long despair;

Celestial-hinted thoughts gay hope inspir'd,  
 Smiling she rose, and all with hope were fir'd.  
 Where Bath's ascending turrets meet her eyes,  
 Straight wafted on the tepid breeze she flies,  
 She flies, her elder sister Health to find,  
 She finds her on the mountain-brow reclin'd :  
 Around her birds in earliest concert sing,  
 Her cheek the semblance of the kindling spring,  
 Fresh-tinctured like a summer-ev'ning sky,  
 And a mild sun sits smiling in her eye :  
 Loose to the wind her verdant vestments flow,  
 Her limbs yet recent from the springs below ;  
 There oft she bathes, then peaceful sits secure,  
 Where ev'ry gale is fragrant, fresh, and pure ;  
 Where flow'rs and herbs their cordial odors blend,  
 And all their balmy virtues fast ascend.

' Hail, Sister ! hail,' the kindred goddess cries,  
 ' No common suppliant stands before your eyes.  
 ' You, with whose living breath the morn is fraught,  
 ' Flush the fair cheek, and point the cheerful  
     thought !

' Strength, vigor, wit, depriv'd of thee, decline !  
 ' Each finer sense that forms delight is thine !  
 ' Bright suns by thee diffuse a brighter blaze,  
 ' And the fresh green, a fresher green displays !  
 ' Without the pleasures die, or daily cloy,  
 ' And life with thee, howe'er depress'd, is joy.  
 ' Such thy vast pow'r !"—The deity replies ;  
 " Mirth never asks a boon which Health denies ;



As from her locks she sheds the vital show'r,  
 ' 'Tis done !' she cries, ' these springs possess my  
 ' Let these immediate to thy darling roll [pow'r !  
 ' Health, vigor, life, and gay-returning soul.  
 ' Thou smil'st, Euphrosyne ! and conscious see,  
 ' Prompt to thy smile, how Nature joys with  
     thee.  
 ' All is green life ! all beauty rosy bright,  
 ' Full Harmony, young Love, and dear Delight !  
 ' See vernal Hours lead circling Joys along !  
 ' All sun, all bloom, all fragrance, and all song !  
     ' Receive thy case ! now Mirth and Health combine,  
         bine,  
 ' Each heart shall gladden, and each virtue shine.  
 ' Quick to Augusta bear thy prize away,  
 ' There let her smile, and bid a world be gay.'

## VERSES

Occasioned by reading

MR. AARON HILL'S POEM

CALLED GIDEON.

The lines marked thus, ' ' are taken from GIBSON.

I.

LET other poets poorly sing  
 Their flatt'ries to the vulgar great,  
 Her airy flight let wand'ring Fancy wing,  
 And rival Nature's most luxuriant store  
 To swellsome monster's pride, who shames a state,  
 Or form a wreath to crown tyrannic pow'r ;

THOU, who inform'd at this clay with active fire,  
 Do THOU, supreme of Pow'r many thoughts refine,  
 And with THY purest heat my soul inspire,  
 That with Hillarius' worth my verse may shine :  
 As THY lov'd Gideon once set Israel free,  
 So he with sweet seraphic lays  
 ' Redeems the use of captive poetry,'  
 Which first was form'd to speak THY glorious  
 praise.

## II.

Moses, with an enchanting tongue,  
 Pharaoh's just overthrow sublimely sung.  
 When Saul and Jonathan in death were laid,  
 Surviving David felt the soft'ning fire,  
 And, by the great ALMIGHTY's tuneful aid,  
 Wak'd into endless life the tuneful lyre.  
 Their different thoughts met in Hillarius' song,  
 Roll in one channel more divinely strong :  
 With Pindar's fire his verse's spirit flies.  
 ' Wafted in charming music thro' the air :'  
 Unstopp'd by clouds, it reaches to the skies,  
 And joins with angels' hallelujahs there,  
 Flows mix'd, and sweetly strikes th' ALMIGHTY's  
 ear.

## III.

Rebels should blush when they his Gideon see,  
 That Gideon born to set his country free.  
 O that such heroes in each age might rise,  
 Bright'ning like vapors thro' the morning star,  
 Gen'rous in triumph, and in council wise,  
 Gentle in peace, but terrible in war !



IV.

When Gideon, Oreb, Hyram, Shimon, shine  
 Fierce in the blaze of war as they engage,  
 Great Bard ! what energy but thine,  
 Could reach the vast description of their rage ?  
 Or when, to cruel foes betray'd,  
 Sareph and Hamar call for aid,  
 Lost and bewilder'd in despair,  
 How piercing are the hapless lover's cries !  
 What tender strokes in melting accents rise !  
 Oh ! what a master-piece of pity's there ?  
 Nor goodly Joash shows thy sweetness less  
 When, like kind Heav'n, he frees them from distress !

V.

Hail Thou ! whose verse a living image shines :  
 In Gideon's character your own you drew ;  
 As there the graceful patriot shines,  
 We in that image bright Hillarius view.  
 Let the low crowd, who love unwholesome fare,  
 When in thy words the breath of angels flows,  
 Like gross-fed spirits sick in purer air,  
 Their earthly souls by their dull taste disclose.  
 Thy dazzling genius shines too bright,  
 And they, like spectres, shun the streams of light ;  
 But while in shades of ignorance they stray,  
 Round thee rays of knowledge play,  
 ' And shew thee glitt'ring in abstract day.' }

## VERSES

OCCASIONED BY THE VICE-PRINCIPAL

OF ST. MARY HALL, OXFORD.

Being presented by the Hon. Mrs Knight to the  
living of Gosfield in Essex.

WHILF by mean arts, and meaner patrons, rise  
Priests whom the learned and the good despise,  
This, sees fair Knight, in whose transcendent mind  
Are wisdom, purity, and truth, enshrined.  
A modest merit now she plans to lift : 5

Thy living, Gosfield! falls her instant gift.  
 'Eet me,' she said, 'reward alone the wise,  
 ' And make the church-revenue Virtue's prize.'

She sought the man of honest candid breast,  
In faith, in works of goodness, full exprest ; 10  
Tho' young, yet tut'ring academic youth  
To science, moral, and religious truth.  
She sought where the disinterested friend,  
The scholar, sage, and free companion blend ;  
The pleasing poet and the deep divine 15  
She sought, she found, and, Hart! the prize was thine.

## AN APOLOGY TO BRILLANTE.

FOR HAVING LONG OMITTED WRITING IN VERSE.

\* In imitation of a certain mimic of Anacreon.

**CAN I matchless charms recite?  
Source of ever-springing light!**

Could I count the vernal flow'rs,  
 Count in endless time the hours ;  
 Count the countless stars above,  
 Count the captive hearts of Love,  
 Paint the torture of his fire,  
 Paint the pangs those eyes inspire !  
 (Pleasing torture thus to shine,  
 Purify'd by fires like thine !)  
 Then I'd strike the sounding string,  
 Then I'd thy perfections sing.

Mystic World !—thou something more,  
 Wonder of th' ALMIGHTY'S store !  
 Nature's depths we oft descry,  
 Oft they're pierc'd by Learning's eye ;  
 Thou, if thought on thee would gain,  
 Prov'st, (like Heav'n) inquiry vain :  
 Charms unequall'd we pursue,  
 Charms in shining throngs we view ;  
 Number'd then could Nature's be,  
 Nature's self wert poor to thee.

## FULVIA.

### A POEM.

LET Fulvia's wisdom be a slave to will,  
 Her darling passions, Scandal and Quodrilie ;  
 On friends and foes her tongue a satire know,  
 Her deeds a satire on herself alone. ~~\*\*\*~~  
 On her poor kindred deigns she word or look ?  
 'Tis cold respect, or 'tis unjust rebuke ;

Worse when good-natur'd, than when most severe ;  
 The jest impure then pains the modest ear.  
 How just the sceptic ! the divine how odd ;  
 What turns of wit play smartly on her God !

The Fates my nearest kindred foes decree ;  
 Fulvia, when piqu'd at them, straight pities me.  
 She, like Benevolence, a smile bestows ;  
 Favors to me, indulge her spleen to those.  
 The banquet serv'd, with peeresses I sit ;  
 She tells my story, and repeats my wit.  
 With mouth distorted, thro' a sounding nose  
 It comes ; now homeliness more homely grows.  
 With see-saw sounds, and nonsense not my own,  
 She screws her features, and she cracks her tone.  
 ' How fine your Bastard ! why so soft a strain ?  
 ' What, such a Mother ? satirize again !'

Oft I object—but fix'd in Fulvia's will—  
 Ah ! tho' unkind, she is my mother still.

The verse now flows, the manuscript she claims ;  
 'Tis fam'd—the fame each curious fair inflames ;  
 The wildfire runs : from copy copy grows ;  
 The Bretts, alarm'd a sep'rate peace propose.  
 'Tis ratify'd—how alter'd, Fulvia's look !  
 My wit's degraded, and my cause forsook.  
 Thus she : ' What's poetry but to amuse ?  
 ' Might I advise—these are more solid views.'  
 With a cool air she adds, ' This tale is old ;  
 ' Were it my case it should no more be told.  
 ' Complaints—had I been worthy to advise—  
 ' You know—but when are wits, like woman, wise ?

' True it may take ; but, think whate'er you list,  
' All love the satire, none the satirist.'

I start, I stare, stand fix'd, then pause a while,  
Then hesitate, then ponder well, then smile.

' Madam—a pension lost—and where's amends ?'

' Sir,' she replies, ' indeed you 'll lose your friends.'  
Why did I start ? 't was but a change of wind—  
Or the same thing—the lady chang'd her mind.  
I bow, depart, despise, discern her all ;  
Nanny revisits, and disgrac'd I fall.

Let Fulvia's friendship whirl with ev'ry whim,  
A reed, a weathercock, a shade, a dream ;  
No more the friendship shall be now display'd  
By weathercock, or reed, or dream, or shade ;  
To Nanny fix'd unvarying shall it tend,  
For souls so form'd alike, were form'd to blend.

## A CHARACTER.

FAIR Truth, in courts where Justice should pre-  
Alike the judge and advocate would guide, [side,  
And these would vie each dubious point to clear,  
To stop the widow's and the orphan's tear,  
Were all, like Yorke, of delicate address,  
Strength to discern, and sweetness to express,  
Learn'd, just, polite, boru ev'ry heart to gain,  
Like Cummins mild, like Fortescue \* humane,

\* The Hon. William Fortescue, Esq. one of the Justices of  
his Majesty's Court of Common Pleas.

All-eloquent of truth, divinely known,  
 So deep, so clear, all science in his own.  
 Of heart impure, and impotent of head,  
 In hist'ry, rhet'ric, ethics, law, unread,  
 How far unlike such worthies! once a drudge,  
 From flound'ring in low cases rose a Judge. [ders,  
 Form'd to make pleaders laugh, his nonsense thun-  
 And on low juries breathes contagious blunders.  
 His brothers blush, because no blush he knows,  
 Nor e'er 'one uncorrupted finger shows \*.'  
 See, drunk with pow'r, the Circuit-lord express'd!  
 Full in his eyes his better stand confess'd;  
 Whose wealth, birth, virtue, from a tongue so loose,  
 'Scape not provincial vile buffoon abuse.  
 Stull to what circuit is assign'd his name,  
 There, swift before him, flies the warner—Fame.  
 Contest stops short, Consent yields ev'ry cause  
 To Cost; Delay endures them and withdraws.  
 But how 'scape pris'ners? To their trial chain'd,  
 All, all shall stand condemn'd who stand arraign'd.  
 Dire guilt, which else would detestation cause,  
 Prejudg'd with insult wond'rous pity draws.  
 But 'scapes ev'n Innocence his harsh harangue?  
 Alas!—ev'n Innocence itself must hang;  
 Must hang to please him, when of spleen possess'd;  
 Must hang to bring forth an abortive jest.

Why liv'd he not ere Star-chambers had fail'd,  
 When fine, tax, censure, all but law, prevail'd;

\* When Page one uncorrupted finger shows.

Or law, subservient to some murd'rous will,  
 Became a precedent to murder still?  
 Yet ev'n when patriots did for traitors bleed,  
 Was e'er the job to such a slave decreed,  
 Whose savage mind wants sophist art to draw  
 O'er murder'd Virtue specious veils of law?

Why, Student! when the bench your youth  
 admits,  
 Where, thro' the worst, with the best rank'd he sits,  
 Where sound opinions you attentive write,  
 As once a Raymond, now a Lee, to cite,  
 Why pause you scornful when he dins the court?  
 Note well his cruel quirks, and well report:  
 Let his own words against himself point clear,  
 Satire more sharp than verse when most severe.

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## CHARACTER

OF THE  
 REV. JAMES FOSTER.

\* \* \* \* \*

From Codex hear, ye ecclesiastic Men!  
 This past'ral charge to Webster, Stebbing, Ven;  
 Attend, ye emblems of your P——'s mind!  
 Mark Faith, mark Hope, mark Charity, defin'd;  
 On terms whence no ideas ye can draw  
 Pin well your faith, and then pronounce it law.

First wealth, a crosier next, your hope inflame,  
 And next church pow'r—a pow'r o'er conscience  
 In modes of worship right of choice deny; [claim,  
 Say to convert all means are fair—add why?

'Tis charitable—let your pow'r decree  
 That persecution then is charity;  
 Call reason error; forms not things display;  
 Let moral doctrine to abstruse give way;  
 Sink demonstration; myst'ry preach alone;  
 Be thus Religion's friend, and thus your own.

But Foster well this honest truth extends—  
 Where mystery begins religion ends.  
 In him, great modern Miracle! we see  
 A priest from av'rice and ambition free;  
 One whom no persecuting spirit fires,  
 Whose heart and tongue benevolence inspires;  
 Learn'd, not assuming; eloquent, yet plain;  
 Meek tho' not tim'rous; conscious tho' not vain;  
 Without craft rev'rend; holy without cant;  
 Zealous for truth, without enthusiast rant.  
 His faith, where no credulity is seen,  
 'Twixt infidel and bigot marks the mean;  
 His hope no mitre militant on earth;  
 'Tis that bright crown which Heav'n reserves for  
 A priest in charity with all mankind, [worth,  
 His love to virtue, not to sect, confin'd:  
 Truth his delight, from him it flames abroad,  
 From him, who fears no being but his God:  
 In him, from Christian, moral light can shine,  
 Not mad with myst'ry, but a sound divine!



He wins the wise and good with reason's lore,  
Then strikes their passions with pathetic pow'r ;  
Where vice erects her head rebukes the page ;  
Mix'd with rebuke persuasive charms engage ;  
Charms which th' unthinking must to thought excite,  
Lo ! Vice less vicious, Virtue more upright.  
Him copy, Codex ! that the good and wise,  
Who so abhor thy heart, and head despise,  
May see thee now, tho' late, redeem thy name,  
And glorify what else is damn'd to fame.

But should some churchman, apeing wit severe,  
' The poet's sure turn'd Baptist'—say, and sneer ;  
Shame on that narrow mind so often known,  
Which in one mode of faith owns worth alone !  
Sneer on, rail, wrangle ; nought this truth repels—  
Virtue is Virtue, wheresoe'r she dwells ;  
And sure where learning gives her light to shine,  
Her's is all praise—if her's, 'tis, Foster ! thine.  
Thee boast Dissenters ; we with pride may own  
Our Tillotson, and Rome her Fenelon.\*

\* In this character of the Rev. James Foster truth guided the pen of the Muse. Mr. Pope paid a tribute to the modest worth of this excellent man ; little did he imagine his Rev. Annotator would endeavour to convert his praise into abuse. The character and writings of Foster will be admired and read when the works of the bitter controversialist are forgotten.

E GRÆCO RUF.

Qui te videt beatus Ær,  
 Beatior qui te audiet,  
 Qui basiat semideus est,  
 Qui te potitur est Deus.      BUCHANAN.

THE FOREGOING LINES PARAPHRASED.

**H**APPY the man who, in thy sparkling eyes,  
 His am'rous wishes sees reflecting play ;  
 Sees little laughing Cupids glancing rise,  
 And in soft-swimming langor die away.

Still happier he, to whom thy meanings roll  
 In sounds which Love, harmonious Lovel inspire ;  
 On his charm'd ear sits, rapt his list'ning soul,  
 Till admiration form intense desire.

Half-deity is he who, warm may press  
 Thy lip soft-swelling to the kindling kiss ;  
 And may that lip assentive warmth express,  
 Till love draw willing love to ardent bliss.

Circling thy waist, and circled in thy arms,  
 Who, melting on thy mutual melting breast,  
 Entranc'd enjoys love's whole luxuriant charms,  
 Is all a god—is of all heav'n possess.

PROLOGUE,

SPOKEN AT THE REVIVAL OF

SHAKSPEARE'S KING HENRY VI.

AT THE THEATRE-ROYAL, DRURY-LANE.

Printed before the Play, from a spurious copy.

**T**O-NIGHT a patient ear, ye Britons ! lend,  
And to your great forefathers deeds attend.  
Here, cheaply warn'd, ye bless'd Descendents ! view  
What ills on England civil Discord drew.  
To wound the heart, the martial Muse prepares,  
While the red scene with raging slaughter glares.

Here, while a monarch's sufferings we relate,  
Let gen'rous grief his ruin'd grandeur wait.  
While Second Richard's blood for vengeance calls  
Doom'd for his grandsire's guilt poor Henry falls :  
In civil jars avenging judgment blows,  
And royal wrongs entail a people's woes :  
Henry, unvers'd in wiles, more good than great !  
Drew on by meekness his disastrous fate.

Thus, when you see this land by faction tost,  
Her nobles slain, her laws, her freedom, lost,  
Let this reflection from the action flow,  
We ne'er from foreign foes could ruin know.  
Oh ! let us then intestine discord shun ;  
We ne'er can be but by ourselves undone.

## EPITAPH

ON A YOUNG LADY.

CLOS'D are those eyes that beam'd seraphic fire ;  
 Cold is that breast which gave the world desire ;  
 Mute is the voice where winning softness warm'd,  
 Where music melted, and where wisdom charm'd,  
 And lively wit, which, decently confin'd,  
 No prude e'er thought impure, no friend unkind.

Could modest knowledge, fair untrifling youth,  
 Persuasive reason and endearing truth ;  
 Could honor, shewn in friendships most refin'd,  
 And sense that shields th' attempted virtuous mind ;  
 The social temper never known to strife,  
 The height'ning graces that embellish life ;  
 Could these have e'er the darts of Death defy'd,  
 Never, ah ! never had Melinda dy'd :  
 Nor can she die—ev'n now survives her name,  
 Immortaliz'd by friendship, love, and fame.

## EPITAPH

ON MRS. JONES.

Grandmother to Mrs. Bridget Jones, of Llanelli in Caermarthenshire.

IN her whose relics mark this sacred earth  
 Shone all domestic and all social worth.  
 First, Heav'n her hope, with early offspring crown'd,  
 And thence a second race rose num'rous round.  
 Heav'n to industrious virtue blessing lent,  
 And all was competence, and all content,  
 Tho' frugal care, in Wisdom's eye ammi'd,  
 Know to preserve what industry acquir'd,  
 Yet at her board, with decent plenty blest,  
 The journeying stranger sat a welcome guest.  
 Press'd on all sides, did trading neighbors fear  
 Ruin, which hung o'er exigence severe?  
 Farewell the friend who spar'd th' assistant loan—  
 A neighbor's woe or welfare was her own.  
 Did pitious lazars oft attend her door?  
 She gave—Farewell the parent of the poor. [swell,  
 Youth, Age, and Want, once cheer'd, now sighing  
 Bless her lov'd name, and weep a last farewell.

## THE VOLUNTEER LAUREAT.

A POEM.

ON HER MAJESTY'S BIRTH-DAY, 1731-2.

No. I.

**T**WICE twenty tedious moons have roll'd away  
 Since Hope, kind Flatt'rer! tun'd my pensive lay,  
 Whisp'ring that you, who rais'd me from despair,  
 Meant, by your smiles, to make life worth my care;  
 With pitying hand an orphan's tears to screen,  
 And o'er the motherless extend the queen.  
 'Twill be—the prophet guides the poet's strain!  
 Grief never touch'd a heart like your's in vain:  
 Heav'n gave you pow'r, because you love to bless,  
 And pity, when you feel it, is redress.

Two fathers join'd to rob my claim of one!  
 My mother, too, thought fit to have no son!  
 The Senate next, whose aid the helpless own,  
 Forgot my infant wrongs, and mine alone!  
 Yet parents pityless, nor peers unkind,  
 Nor titles lost, nor woes mysterious join'd,  
 Strip me of hope—by Heav'n thus lowly laid,  
 To find a Pharaoh's daughter in the shade.

You cannot hear unmov'd when wrongs implore;  
 Your heart is woman, tho' your mind be more:  
 Kind, like the Pow'r who gave you to our prayers,  
 You would not lengthen life to sharpen cares:  
 They, who a barren *leave-to-live* bestow,  
 Snatch but from Death to sacrifice to Woe:

Hated by her from whom my life I drew,  
Whence should I hope, if not from Heav'n and you?  
Nor dare I groan beneath Affliction's rod;  
My queen, my mother; and my father—GOD.

The pitying Muses saw me wit pursue,  
A bastard son, alas! on that side too,—  
Did not your eyes exalt the poet's fire,  
And what the Muse denies, the queen inspire.  
While rising thus your heav'nly soul to view,  
I learn how angels think by copying you.

Great princess! 'tis decreed—once ev'ry year  
I march, uncall'd, your Laureat Volunteer!  
Thus shall your poet his low genius raise,  
And charm the world with truths too vast for praise.  
Nor need I dwell on glories all your own,  
Since surer means to tempt your smiles are known;  
Your poet shall allot your lord his part,  
And paint him in his noblest throne—your heart.

Is there a greatness that adorns him best,  
A rising wish that ripens in his breast?  
Has he foremeant some distant age to bless,  
Disarm oppression, or expel distress?  
Plans he some scheme to reconcile mankind,  
People the seas, and busy ev'ry wind?  
Would he by 'pity the deceiv'd reclaim,  
And smile contending factions into shame?  
Would his example lend his laws a weight,  
And breathe his own soft morals o'er his state?  
The Muse shall find it all, shall make it seen,  
And teach the world his praise, to charm his queen.

Such be the Annual truths my verse imparts ;  
 Nor frown, fair Fav'rite of a people's hearts !  
 Happy if plac'd, perchance, beneath your eye,  
 My Muse, unpension'd, might her pinions try ;  
 Fearless to fail whilst you indulge her flame,  
 And bid me proudly boast your Laureat's name ;  
 Renobled thus by wreaths my queen bestows,  
 I lose all memory of wrongs and woes.

## THE VOLUNTEER LAUREAT.

ON HER MAJESTY'S BIRTH-DAY, 1732-3.

h<sup>4</sup>

### No. II.

' GREAT Princess ! 'tis decreed—once ev'ry year  
 ' I march, uncall'd, your Laureat Volunteer.'  
 So sung the Muse, nor sung the Muse in vain ;  
 My queen accepts—the year renews the strain.

Ere first your influence shone with heav'nly aid  
 Each thought was terror, for each view was shade ;  
 Fortune to life each flow'ry path deny'd ;  
 No science learn'd to bloom, no lay to glide.  
 Instead of hallow'd hill or vocal vale,  
 Or stream sweet-echoing to the tuneful tale,  
 Damp dens confin'd, or barren deserts spread,  
 With spectres haunted, and the Muses fled ;  
 Ruins in pensive emblem seem to rise,  
 And all was dark or wild to Fancy's eyes.



But, hark ! a gladd'ning voice all nature cheers !  
Disperse, ye Glooms ! a day of joy appears.  
Hail, happy Day !—'Twas on thy glorious morn  
The first, the fairest, of her sex was born !  
How swift the change ! cold wintry sorrows fly ;  
Where'er she looks delight surrounds the eye !  
Mild shines the sun, the woodlands warble round,  
The vales sweet echo, sweet the rocks resound !  
In cordial air sweet fragrance floats along ;  
Each scene is verdure, and each voice is song !

Shoot from yon' orb divine, ye quick'ning Rays !  
Boundless, like her benevolence, ye blaze !  
Soft emblems of her bounty, fall, ye Show'rs !  
And sweet ascend, and fair unfold, ye Flow'rs !  
Ye Roses, Lilies ! you we earliest claim,  
In whiteness and in fragrance match her fame !  
'Tis yours to fade ; to fame like her's is due  
Undying sweets, and bloom for ever new.  
Ye Blossoms ! that one vary'd landscape rise,  
And send your scentful tribute to the skies,  
Diffusive like yon' royal branches smile,  
Grace the young year, and glad the graceful isle !  
Attend, ye Muses ! mark the feather'd choirs ;  
I hose the spring wakes, as you the queen inspires.  
O ! let her praise for ever swell your song,  
Sweet let your sacred streams the notes prolong,  
Clear, and more clear, thro' all my lays refine,  
And there let heav'n and her reflected shine !

As when chill blights from vernal suns retire,  
Cheerful the vegetative world aspire,



See nations round of every wish possess!  
Life in each eye, and joy in ev'ry breast!  
Shall I, on what I lightly touch, explain?  
Shall I (vain thought) attempt the finish'd strain?  
No!—let the poet stop unequal lays,  
And to the just historian yield your praise.

## THE VOLUNTEER LAUREAT.

### A POEM

On her Majesty's Birth-Day, 1734-5.

#### No. IV\*.

IN youth no parent nurs'd my infant-songs;  
'Twas mine to be inspir'd alone by wrongs;  
Wrongs that with life their fierce attack began,  
Drank infant-tears, and still pursue the man.  
Life scarce is life—Dejection all is mine,  
The pow'r that loves in lonely shades to pine;  
Of faded cheek, of unelated views,  
Whose weaken'd eyes the rays of hope refuse:  
'Tis mine the mean inhuman pride to find,  
Who shuns th' oppress'd, to fortune only kind;  
Whose pity's insult, and whose cold respect  
Is keen as scorn, ungen'rous as neglect.  
Void of benevolent obliging grace,  
Ev'n dubious Friendship half averts his face.  
Thus sunk in sickness, thus with woes oppress'd,  
How shall the fire awake within my breast?

\* None of the editions have preserved No. III.

How shall the Muse her flagging pinions raise?  
 How tune her voice to Carolina's praise?  
 From jarring thought no tuneful raptures flow;  
 These with fair days and gentle seasons glow:  
 Such give alone sweet Philomel to sing,  
 And Philomel's the poet of the spring.

But soft, my Soul! see yon' celestial light,  
 Before whose lambent lustre breaks the night;  
 It glads me like the morning clad in dews,  
 And beams reviving from the venal Muse,  
 Inspiring joyous peace; 'tis she! 'tis she!  
 A stranger long to misery and me.

Her verdant mantle gracefully declines,  
 And, flow'r-embroider'd, as it varies shines.  
 To form her garland Zephyr, from his wing,  
 Throws the first flow'rs and foliage of the spring.  
 Her looks how lovely! Health and Joy have lent  
 Bloom to her cheek, and to her brow content.  
 Behold sweet-beaming her ethereal eyes,  
 Soft as the Pleiades o'er the dewy skies!  
 She blunts the point of care, alleviates woes,  
 And pours the balm of comfort and repose;  
 Bids the heart yield to Virtue's silent call,  
 And shews Ambition's sons mere children all,  
 Who hunt for toys which please with tinsel shine,  
 For which they squabble, and for which they pine.  
 Oh! hear her voice, more mellow than the gale  
 That, breath'd thro' shepherd's pipe, enchants the  
 vale!

Hark ! she invites from city smoke and noise,  
Vapours impure, and from impurer joys ;  
From various evils that, with rage combin'd,  
Untune the body, and pollute the mind ;  
From crowds, to whom no social faith belongs,  
Who tread one circle of deceit and wrongs ;  
With whom politeness is but civil guile,  
And laws oppress, exerted by the vile.  
To this oppos'd, the Muse presents the scene  
Where sylvan pleasures ever smile serene ;  
Pleasures that emulate the bless'd above,  
Health, innocence, and peace, the Muse and Love ;  
Pleasures that ravish, while alternate wrought  
By friendly converse and abstracted thought.  
These sooth my throbbing breast. No loss I mourn,  
Tho' both from riches and from grandeur torn.  
Weep I a cruel Mother ? No—I've seen,  
From Heav'n, a pitying, a maternal, queen.  
One gave me life, but would no comfort grant  
She more than life resum'd by giving want.  
Would she the being which she gave destroy ?  
My queen gives life, and bids me hope for joy.  
Honours and wealth I cheerfully resign,  
If competence, if learned ease, be mine ;  
If I by mental heartfelt joys be fir'd,  
And in the vale by all the Muse inspir'd !  
Here cease my plaint—See yon' enliv'ning scene !  
Child of the Spring ! behold the best of Queens !  
Softness and beauty rose this heav'nly morn,  
Dawn'd wisdom, and Benevolence was born.

Joy o'er a people in her influence rose,  
 Like that which Spring o'er rural nature throws.  
 War to the peaceful pipe resigns his roar,  
 And breaks his billows on some distant shore.  
 Domestic discord sinks beneath her smile,  
 And arts, and trade, and plenty, glad the isle.  
 Lo! Industry surveys, with feasted eyes,  
 His due reward, a plenteous harvest rise!  
 Nor (taught by Commerce) joys in that alone,  
 But sees the harvest of a world his own.  
 Hence thy just praise, thou mild, majestic, Thames!  
 Rich River! richer than Pactolus' streams!  
 Than those renown'd of yore, by poets roll'd  
 O'er intermingled pearls and sands of gold:  
 How glorious thou! when from old Ocean's urn,  
 Loaded with India's wealth, thy waves return!  
 Alive thy banks! along each bord'ring line,  
 High-cultur'd blooms, inviting villas shine;  
 And while around ten thousand beauties glow,  
 These still o'er those redoubling lustre throw.

- ' Come then, (so whisper'd the indulgent Muse)  
 ' Come then, in Richmond groves thy sorrows lose!  
 ' Come then, and hymn this day! The pleasing  
     scene  
 ' Shews in each view the genius of thy queen.  
 ' Hear Nature whisp'ring in the breeze her song!  
 ' Hear the sweet-warbling thro' the feather'd throng!  
 ' Come! with the warbling world thy notes unite,  
 ' And with the vegetative smile delight!

- ‘ Sure such a scene and song will soon restore  
‘ Lost quiet, and give bliss unknown before ;  
‘ Receive it grateful, and adore, when giv’n,  
‘ The goodness of thy parent, Queen, and Heav’n!  
‘ With me each private virtue lifts his voice,  
‘ While public spirit bids a land rejoice ;  
‘ O’er all thy queen’s benevolence descends,  
‘ And wide o’er all her vital light extends.  
‘ As winter softens into spring, to you  
‘ Blooms Fortune’s season, thro’ her smile, anew,  
‘ Still for past bounty, let new lays impart  
‘ The sweet effusions of a grateful heart !  
‘ Cast thro’ the telescope of hope your eye,  
‘ There Goodness infinite, supreme, descry !  
‘ From him that ray of virtue stream’d on earth,  
‘ Which kindled Caroline’s bright soul to birth.  
‘ Behold ! he spreads one universal spring !  
‘ Mortals, transform’d to angels, then shall sing ;  
‘ Oppression then shall fly with want and shame,  
‘ And blessing and existence be the same !’

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## THE VOLUNTEER LAUREAT.

### A POEM,

On her Majesty’s Birth-Day, 1735 &c.

### No. V.

Lo ! the mild sun salutes the op’ning spring,  
And gladd’ning Nature calls the Muse to sing ;

Gay chirp the birds, the bloomy sweets exhale,  
 And health, and song, and fragrance, fill the gale.  
 Yet mildest suns to me are pain severe,  
 And Music's self is discord to my ear!

I jocund Spring unsympathising see,  
 And health, that comes to all, comes not to me.  
 Dear Health! once fled, what spirits can I find!  
 What solace meet, when fled my peace of mind?  
 From absent books what studious hint devise? -  
 From absent friends what aid to thought can rise?

A Genius whisper'd in my ear—'Go seek  
 'Some man of state!—The Muse your wrongs may  
 But will such listen to the plaintive strain? [speak.'  
 The happy seldom heed th' unhappy's pain.  
 To wealth, to honours, wherefore was I born?  
 Why left to poverty, repulse, and scorn?  
 Why was I form'd of elegant desires?  
 Thought which beyond a vulgar flight aspires!  
 Why by the proud and wicked crush'd to earth!  
 Better the day of death than day of birth!

Thus I exclaim'd: a little cherub smil'd;  
 'Hope, I am call'd,' said he, 'a heav'n-born child!  
 'Wrongs sure you have; complain you justly may;  
 'But let wild sorrow whirl not thought away!  
 'No—trust to honour! that you ne'er will stain  
 'From peerage-blood, which fires your filial vein.  
 'Trust more to Providence! from me ne'er swerve!  
 'Once to distrust is never to deserve.  
 'Did not this day a Caroline disclose?  
 'I promis'd at her birth, and blessing rose!



‘ (Blessing o’er all the letter’d world to shine,  
‘ In knowledge clear, beneficence divine ! )  
‘ ’Tis hers, as mine, to chase away despair ;  
‘ Woe undeserv’d is her peculiar care :  
‘ Her bright benevolence sends me to grief,  
‘ On Want sheds bounty, and on Wrong relief.’

Then calm-ey’d Patience, born of angel-kind,  
Open’d a dawn of comfort to my mind :  
With her came Fortitude, of godlike air !  
These arm to conquer ills, at least to bear.  
Arm’d thus, my Queen ! while wayward Fates or-  
My life to lengthen, but to lengthen pain, [daim  
Your bard his sorrows with a smile endures,  
Since to be wretched is to be made yours.

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## THE VOLUNTEER LAUREAT.

### AN ODE

1 On her Majesty’s Birth-Day, 1736-7.

#### No. VI.

Y<sup>E</sup> Spirits bright ! that ether rove,  
That breathe the vernal soul of love.  
Bid Health descend in balmy dews,  
And life in ev’ry gale diffuse,  
That give the flow’rs to shine, the birds to sing ;  
Oh ! glad this natal day, the prime of spring !  
The virgin snowdrop first appears,  
Her golden head the crocus rears ;

The flow'ry tribe profuse and gay,  
 Spread to the soft inviting ray.  
 So arts shall bloom by Carolina's smile,  
 So shall her fame waft fragrance o'er the isle.

The warblers various, sweet, and clear,  
 From bloomy sprays salute the year.  
 O Muse ! awake ; ascend and sing,  
 Hail the fair rival of the spring !  
 To woodland honours woodland hymns belong,  
 To her, the pride of arts ! the Muse's song.  
 Kind, as of late her clement sway,  
 The season sheds a tepid ray.  
 The storms of Boreas rave no more,  
 The storms of faction cease to roar :  
 At vernal suns as wintry tempests cease,  
 She, lovely Pow'r ! smiles faction into peace.

## THE VOLUNTEER LAUREAT,

For the first of March, 1737-8.

### A POEM,

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF HER LATE MAJESTY.

*Humbly addressed to*

HIS MAJESTY.

No. VII.

OFF' has the Muse, on this distinguish'd day,  
 Tun'd to glad harmony the vernal lay ;

But, O lamented change! the lay must flow  
From grateful rapture now to grateful woe.  
She to this day who joyous lustre gave,  
Descends for ever to the silent grave:  
She! born at once to charm us and to mend,  
Of human race the pattern and the friend.  
To be or fondly or severely kind,  
To check the rash or prompt the better mind,  
Parents shall learn from her, and thus shall draw  
From filial love alone a filial awe.  
Who seek in av'rice wisdom's art to save,  
Who often squander, yet who never gave,  
From her these knew the righteous mean to find,  
And the mild virtue stole on half mankind:  
The lavish now caught frugal Wisdom's lore,  
Yet still the more they sav'd bestow'd the more.  
Now misers learn'd at others' woes to melt,  
And saw and wonder'd at the change they felt;  
The gen'rous, when on her they turn'd their view,  
The gen'rous ev'n themselves more gen'rous grew,  
Learn'd the shunn'd haunts of shame-fac'd Want  
To goodness, delicacy, adding grace. [to trace;  
The conscious cheek no rising blush confest,  
Nor dwelt one thought to pain the modest breast;  
Kind and more kind did thus her bounty show'n,  
And knew no limit but a bounded pow'r.  
This truth the widow's sighs, alas! proclaim;  
For this the orphan's tears embalm her fame.  
The wise behold her Learning's summit gain,  
Yet never giddy gossamer, nor ever vain,

But on one science point a stedfast eye,  
That science—how to live and how to die.

Say, Memory ! while to thy grateful sight  
Arise her virtues in unfading light,  
What joys were ours, what sorrows now remain :  
Ah ! how sublime the bliss ! how deep the pain !

And thou, bright Princess ! seated now on high,  
Next one the fairest daughter of the Sky,  
Whose warm-felt love is to all beings known,  
Thy sister Charity ! next her thy throne ;  
See at thy tomb the Virtues weeping lie !  
There in dumb sorrow seem the Arts to die.  
So were the sun o'er other orbs to blaze,  
And from our world, like thee, withdraw his rays, \*  
No more to visit where he warm'd before,  
All life must cease, and nature be no more.  
Yet shall the Muse a heav'nly height essay  
Beyond the weakness mix'd with mortal clay ;  
Beyond the loss which, tho' she bleeds to see,  
Tho' ne'er to be redeem'd, the loss of thee !  
Beyond ev'n this she hails, with joyous lay,  
Thy better birth, thy first true natal day ;  
A day that sees thee borne beyond the tomb  
To endless health, to youth's eternal bloom ;  
Borne to the mighty dead, the souls sublime  
Of ev'ry famous age and ev'ry clime ;  
To goodness fix'd by truth's unvarying laws,  
To bliss that knows no period, knows no pause—  
Save when thine eye, from yonder pure serene,  
Sheds a soft ray on this our gloomy scene.

With me now Liberty and Learning mourn,  
From all relief, like thy lov'd consort, torn ;  
For where can prince or people hope relief,  
When each contend to be supreme in grief ?  
So vy'd thy virtues that could point the way,  
So well to govern, yet so well obey.

Deign one look more ! ah ! see thy consort dear  
Wishing all hearts, except his own, to cheer.  
Lo ! still he bids thy wonted bounty flow  
To weeping families of worth and woe :  
He stops all tears, however fast they rise,  
Saves those that still must fall from grateful eyes ;  
And, spite of griefs that so usurp his mind,  
Still watches o'er the welfare of mankind.

Father of those whose rights thy care defends,  
Still most their own when most their sovereign's  
friends,  
Then chiefly brave, from bondage chiefly free,  
When most they trust, when most they copy thee ;  
Ah ! let the lowest of thy subjects pay  
His honest heart-felt tributary lay ;  
In anguish happy, if permitted here  
One sigh to vent, to drop one virtuous tear ;  
Happier, if pardon'd, should he wildly moan,  
And with a monarch's sorrow mix his own.

THE END.



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